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Galant

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[54] **ANTI-THEFT DEVICE FOR OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

[75] Inventor: **Steve N. Galant**, Mississauga, Canada

[73] Assignee: **CNC Atlas Manufacturing Inc.**, Mississauga, Canada

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[51] **Int. Cl.**⁷ **E05B 73/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **70/58; 70/62; 248/551**

[58] **Field of Search** 248/551-553; 70/57, 58, 14, 18, 19, 62, 158, 163, 164, 167-169; 109/50, 52; 312/223.2, 265.5, 265.6

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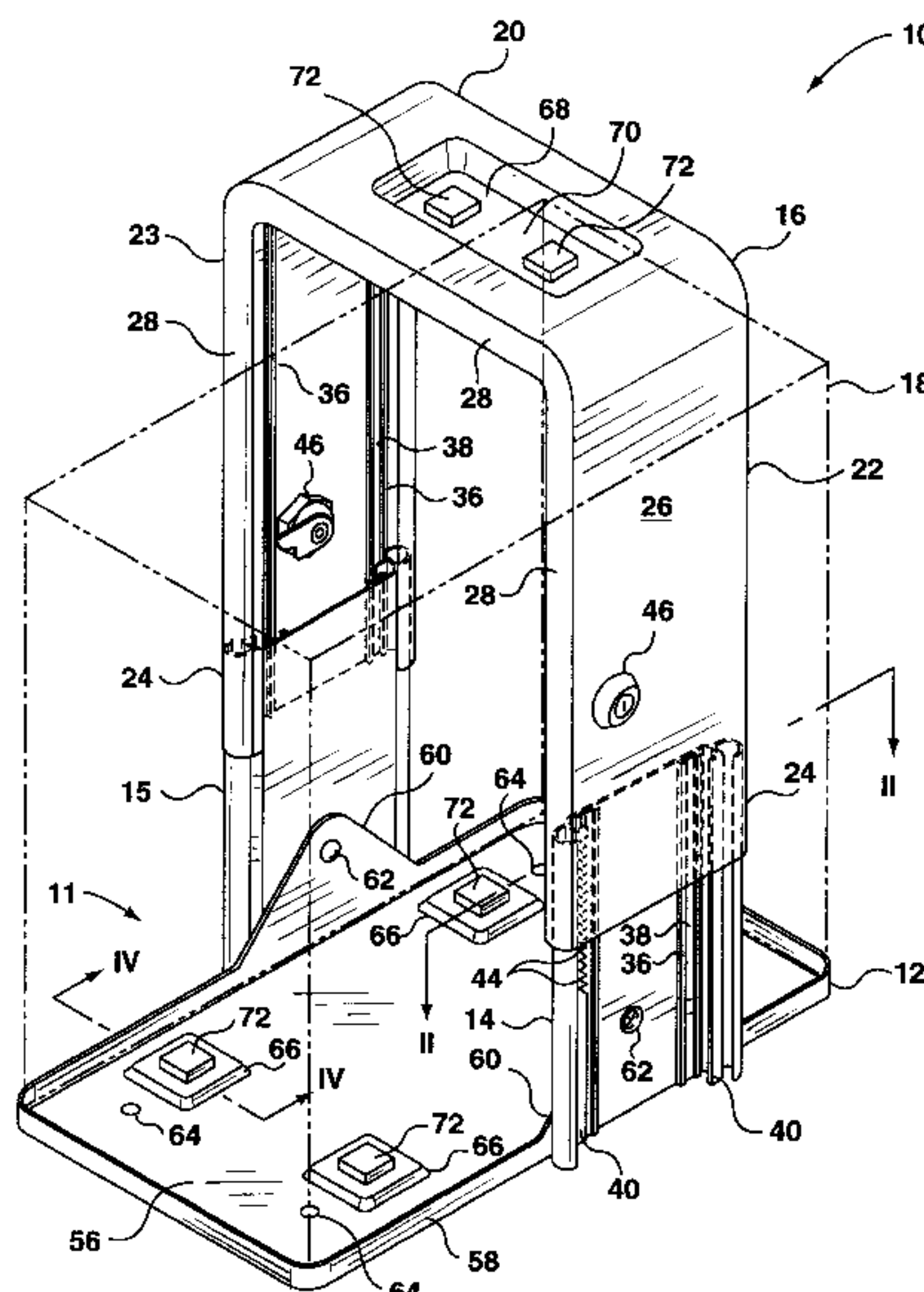
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Primary Examiner—Suzanne Dino Barrett
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Barrigar & Moss; David Greer; Dolly Kao

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An anti-theft device for securing a computer or office equipment component to a work surface. The device is adjustable for use with different sizes of components, and includes a generally U-shaped base member having an intermediate base frame and first and second parallel arms extending from the base frame and spaced apart to receive the equipment component to be secured therebetween. The base frame includes a base plate having a plurality of securing holes for receiving securing means to secure the base member to the support surface. The device includes a generally U-shaped clamping member having an intermediate clamp plate for engaging the office equipment component and first and second parallel arms extending from the clamp plate. The first and second parallel arms of one member are telescopically engaged with the first and second parallel arms, respectively, of the other member such that the base plate and clamp plate are opposed. Locking means are associated with the first parallel arms of the members and comprise a series of adjacent teeth and a locking device for engaging the teeth so that the clamp plate can be selectively locked into one of a number of possible positions relative to the base plate, wherein the equipment component can be clamped between the base frame and the clamp plate. In one embodiment, the widths of the base member and clamp member can be adjusted to correspond to the width of the equipment component.

26 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets



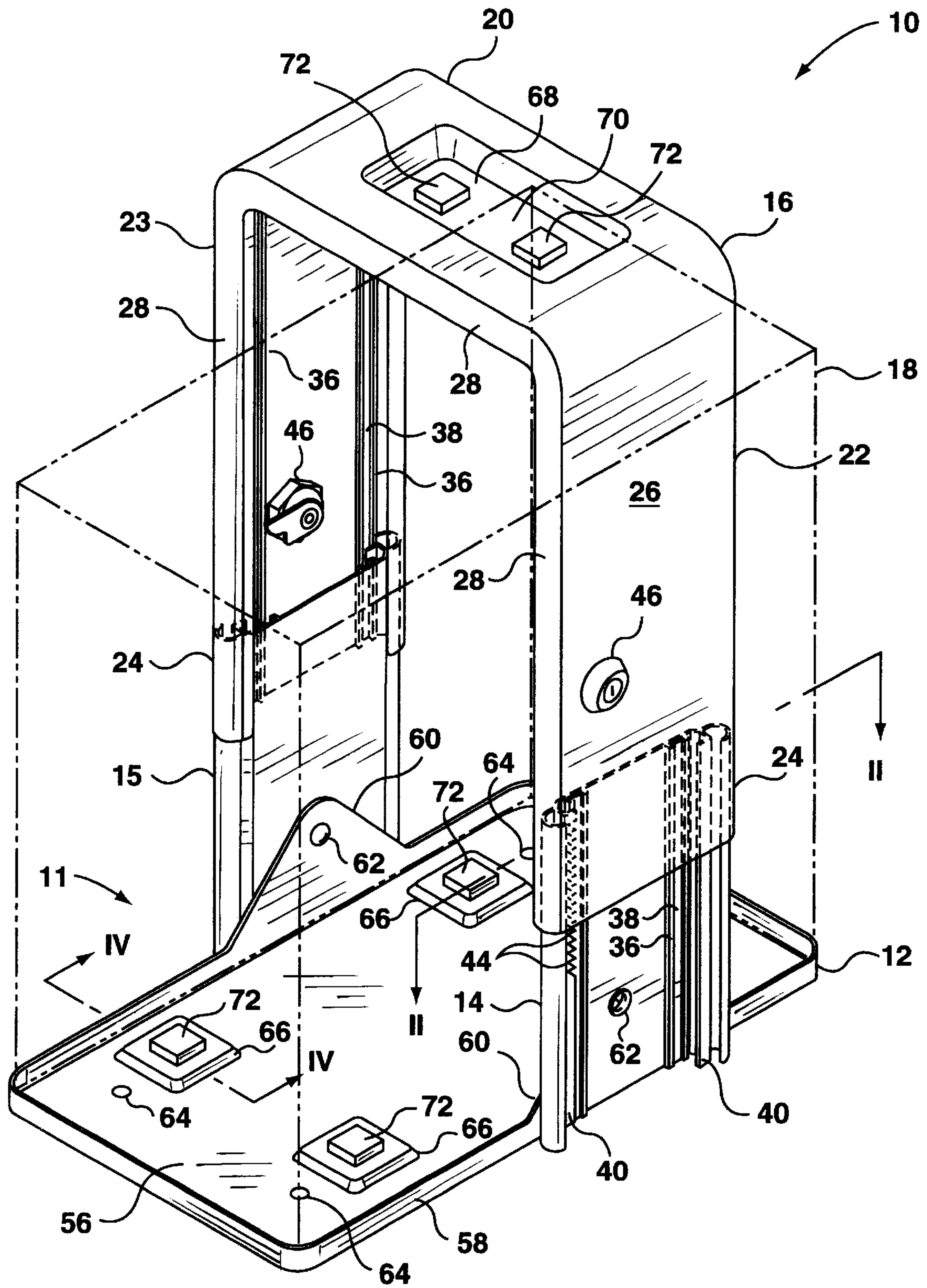


FIG. 1

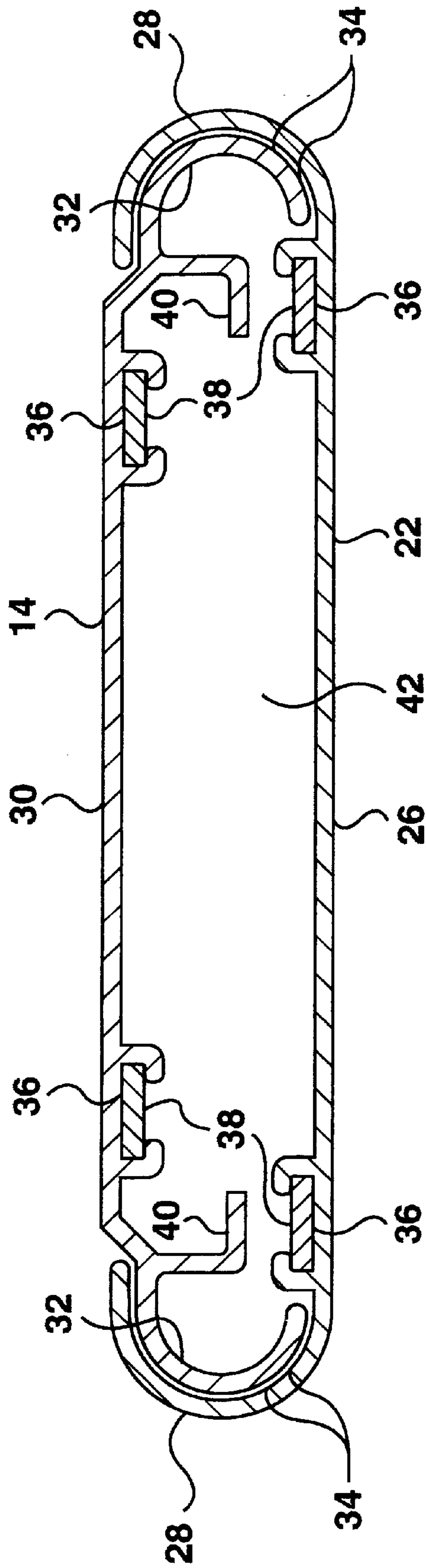


FIG. 2

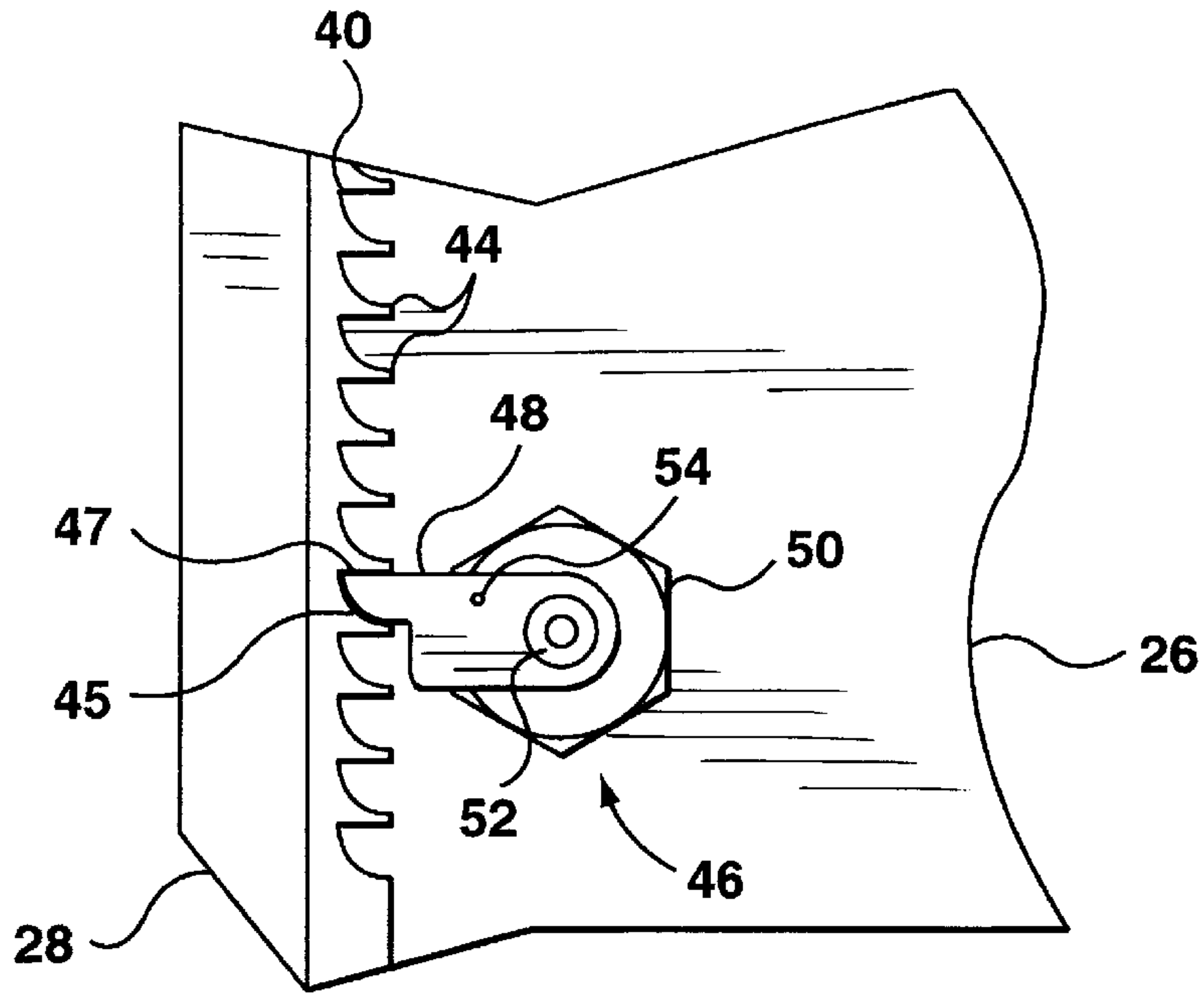


FIG. 3

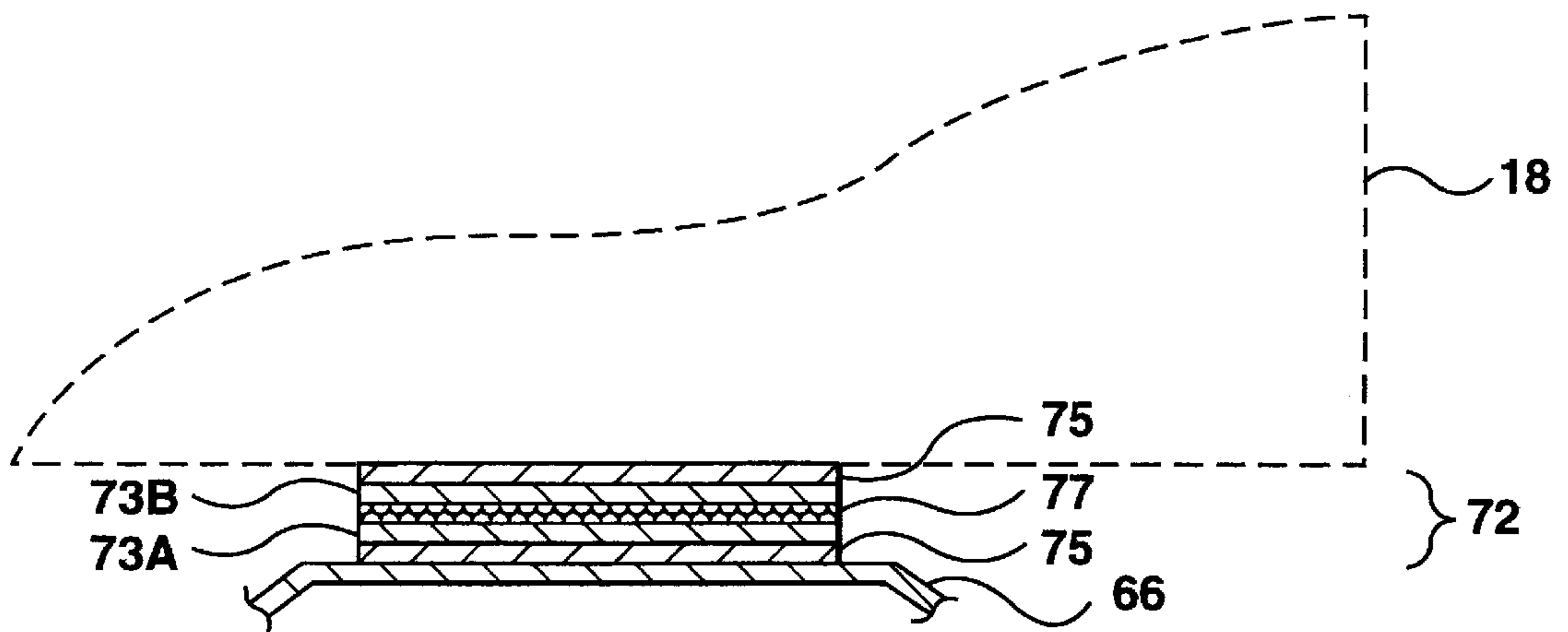


FIG. 4

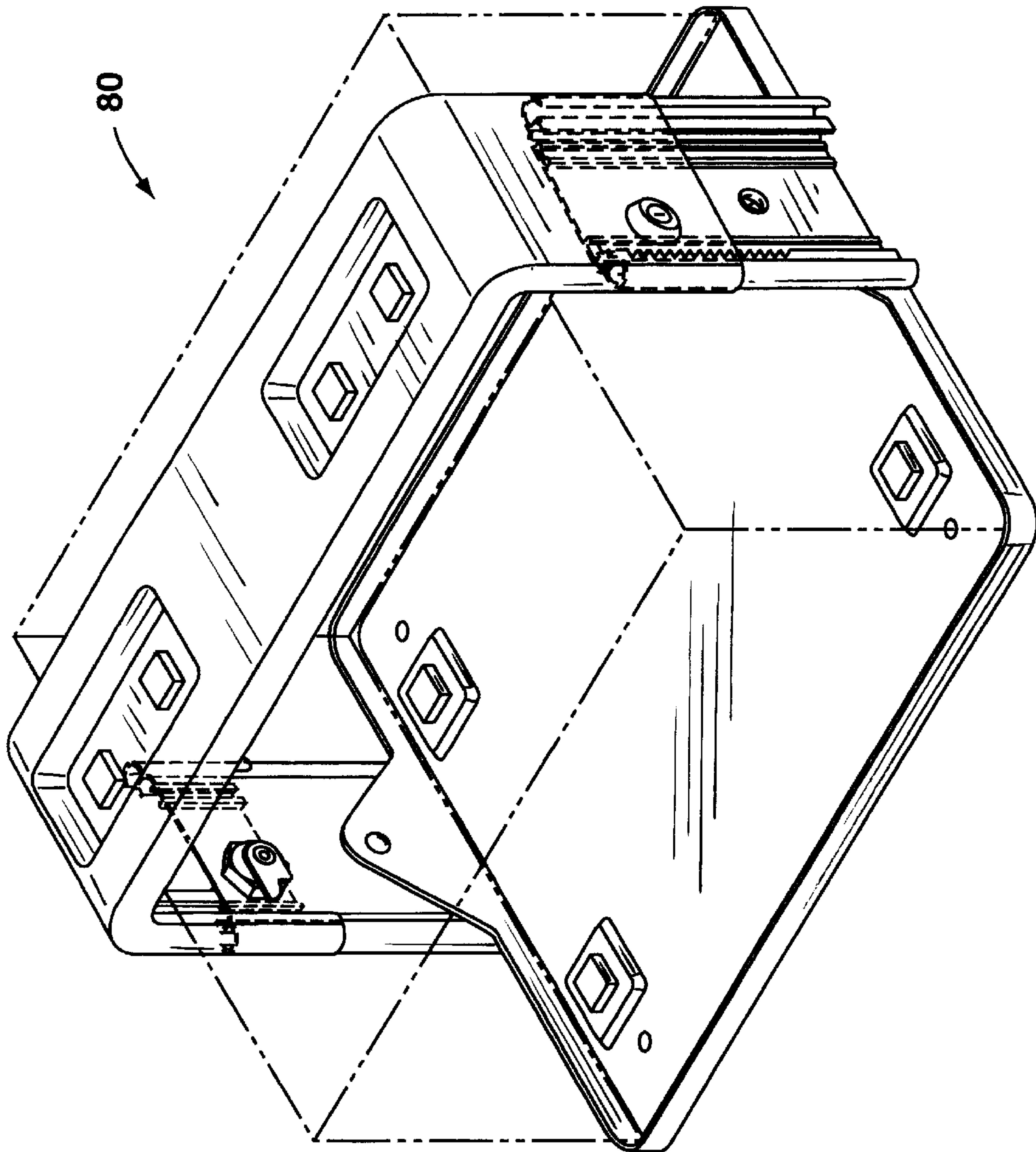


FIG. 5

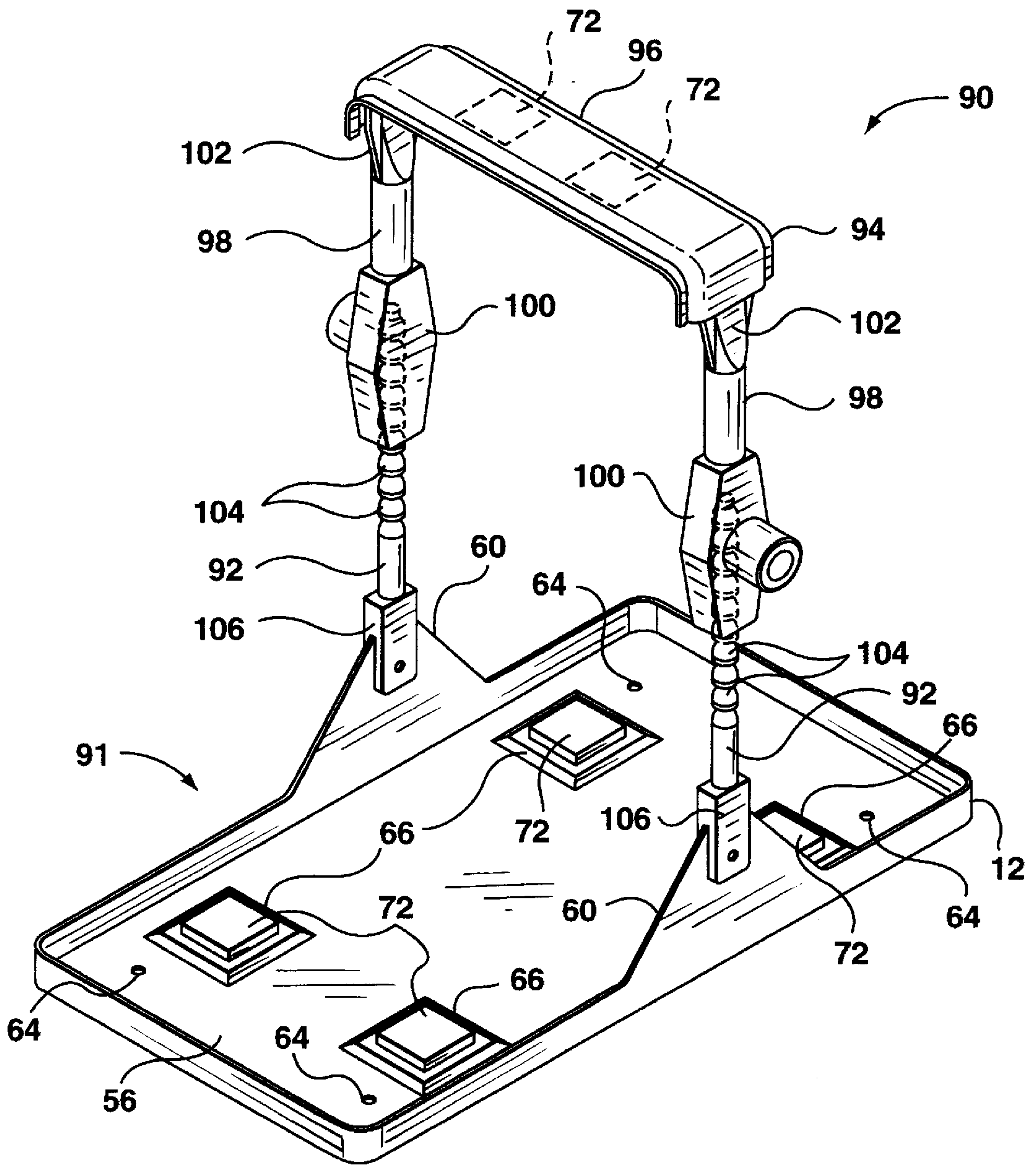


FIG. 6

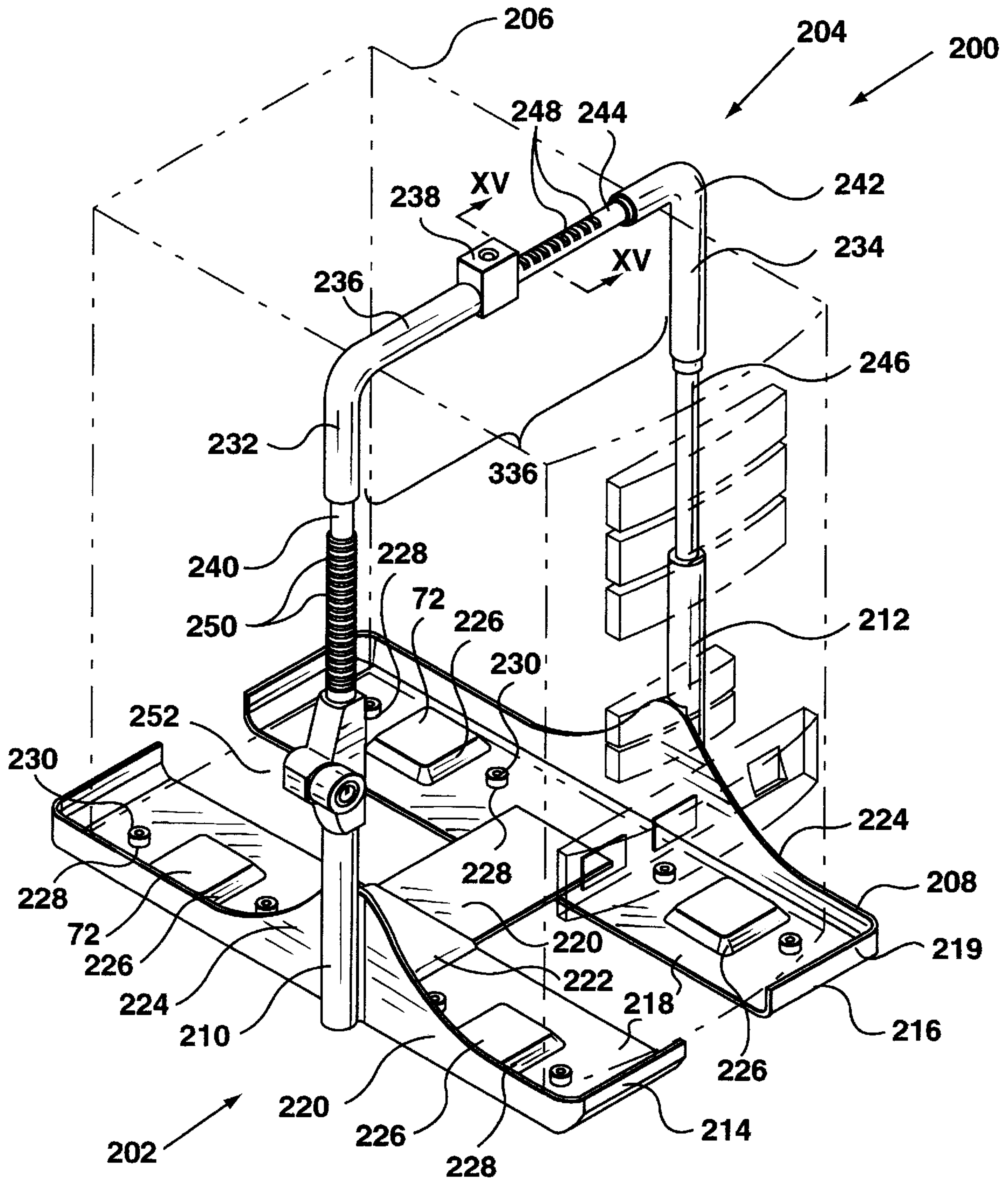


FIG. 7

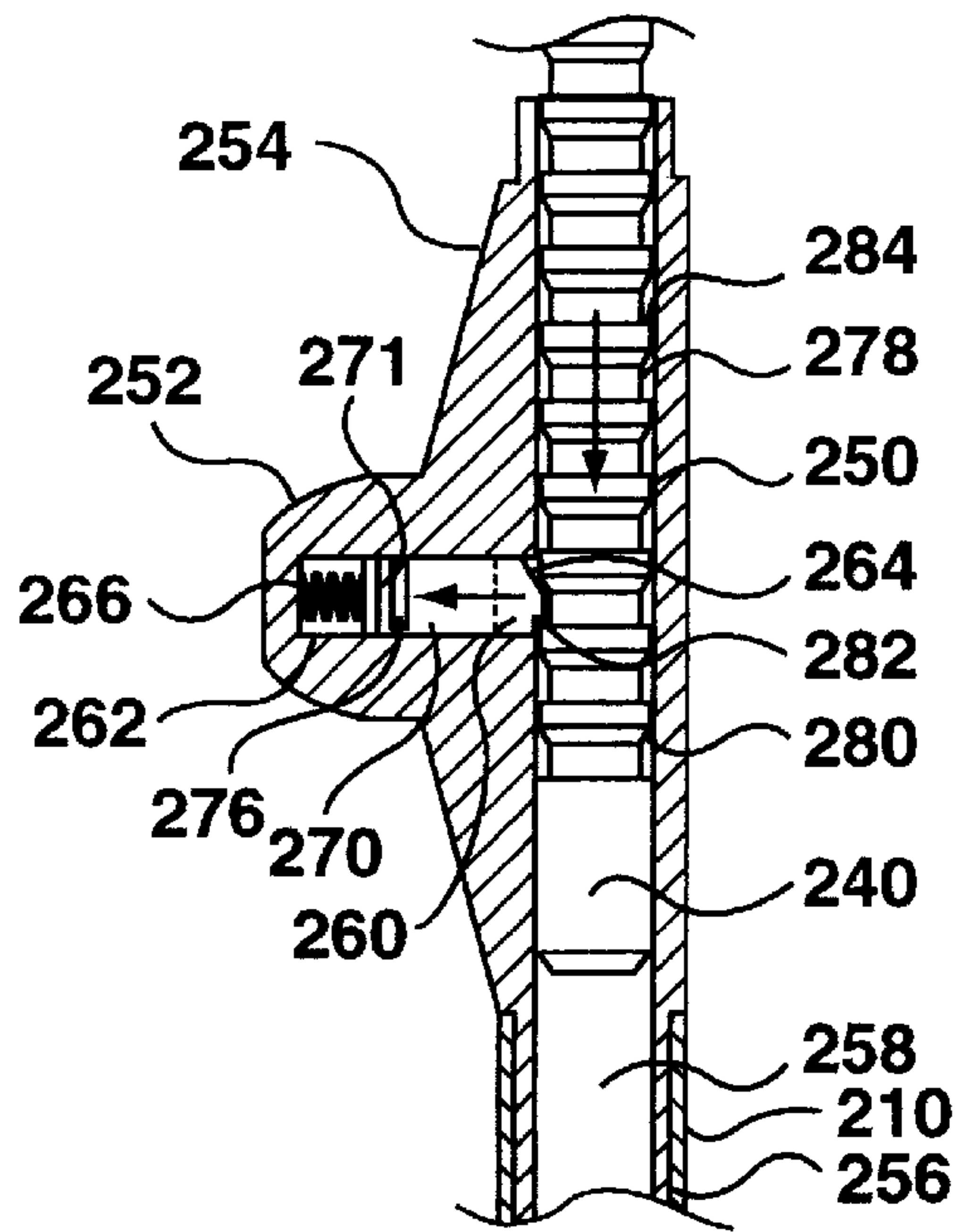


FIG. 10

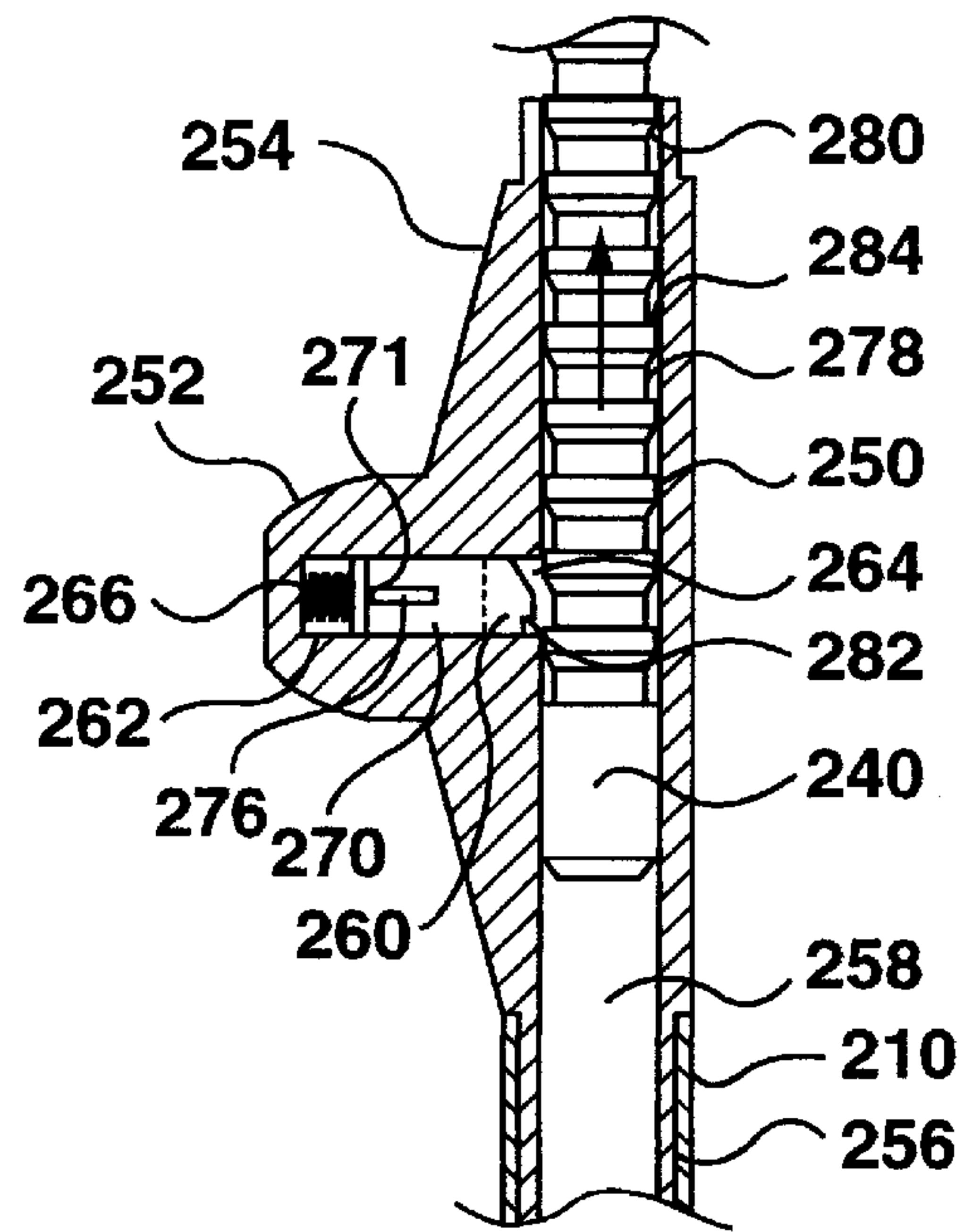


FIG. 11

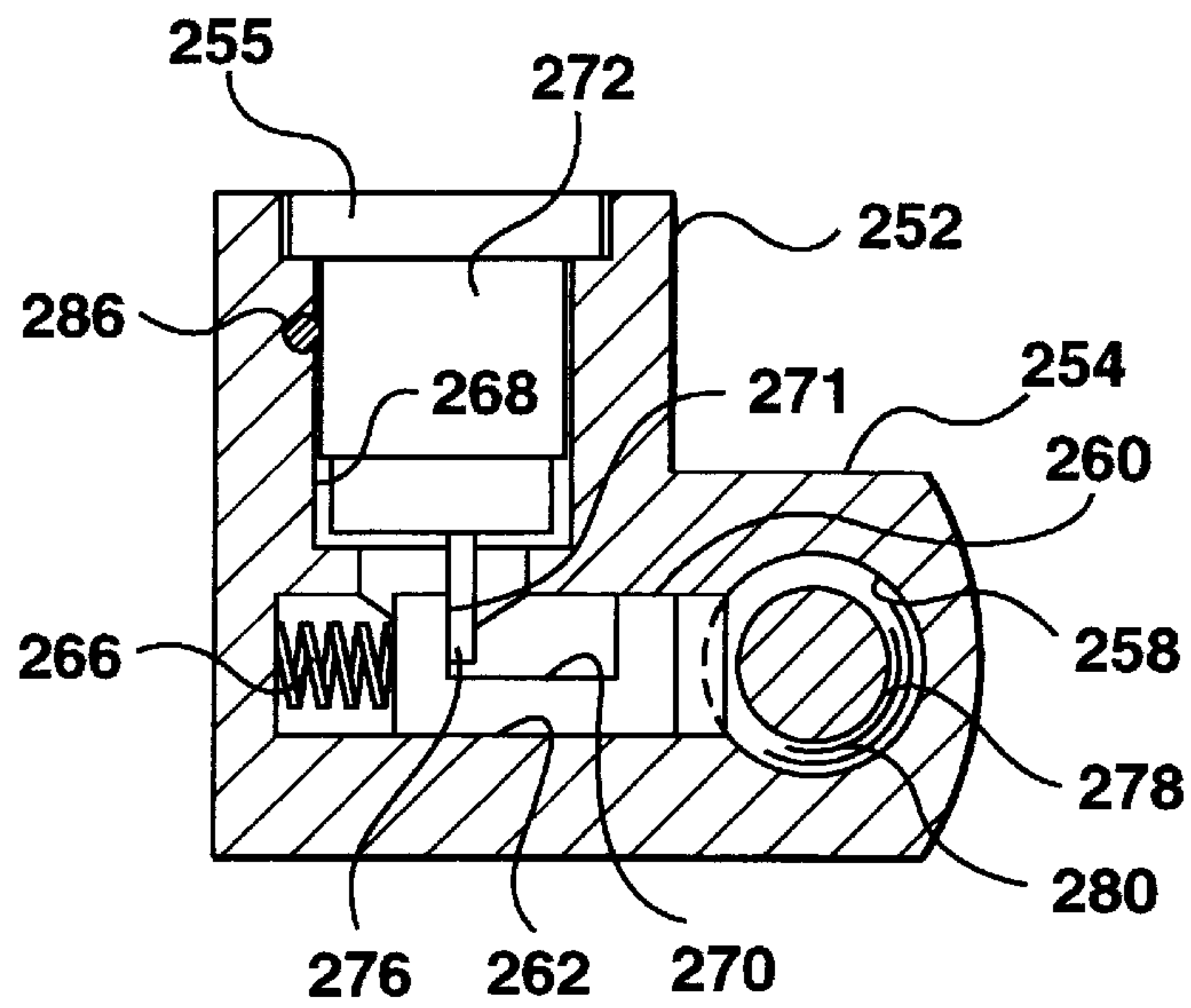


FIG. 12

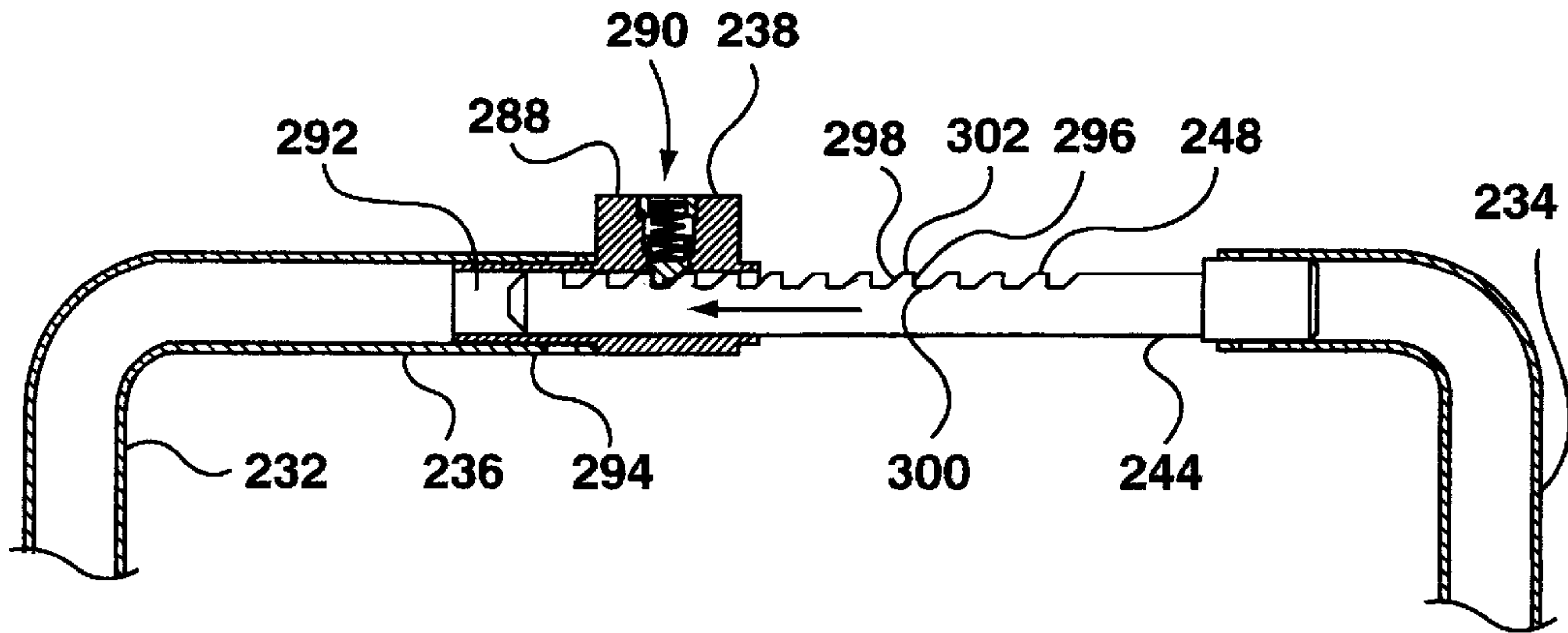


FIG. 13

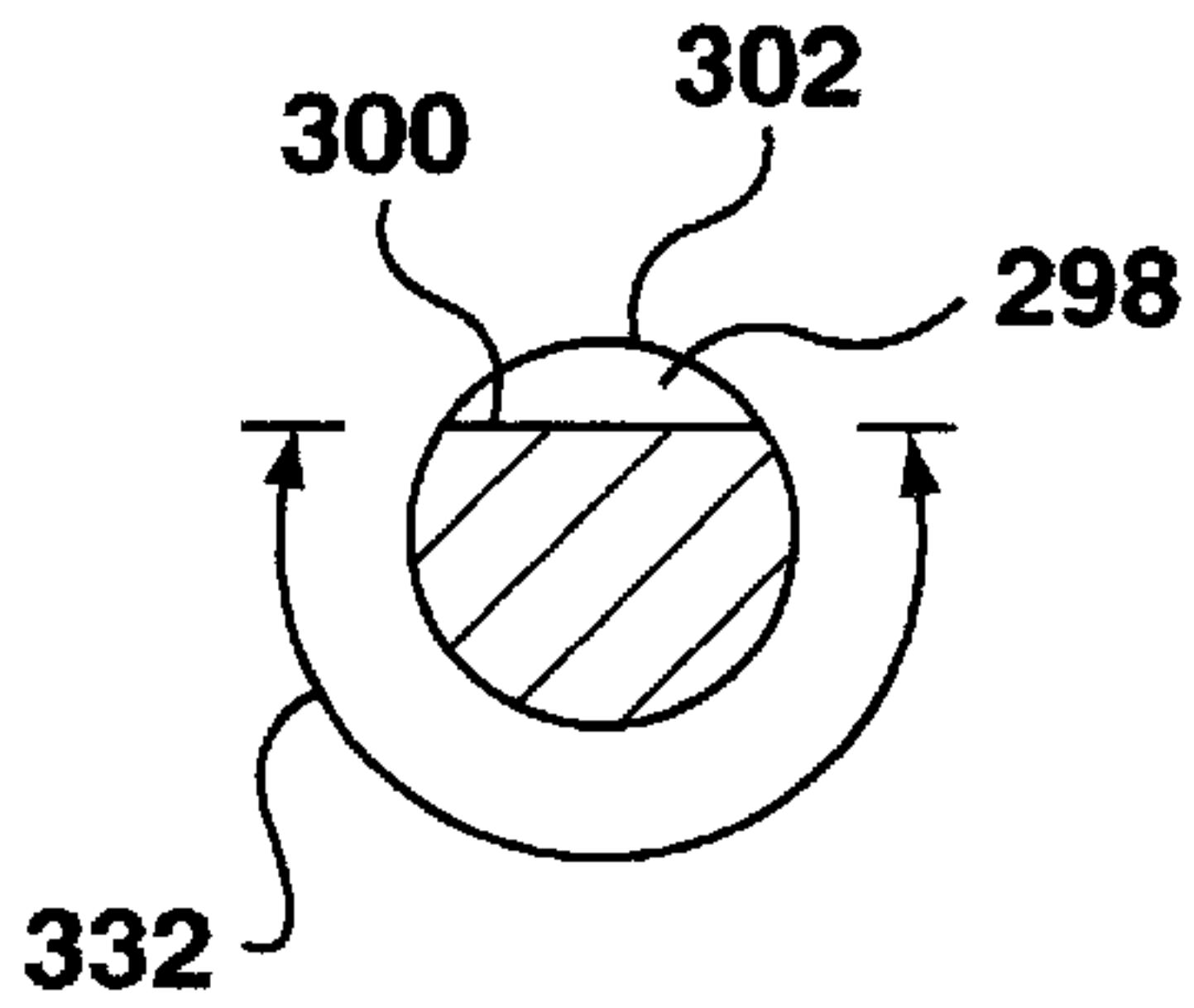


FIG. 15

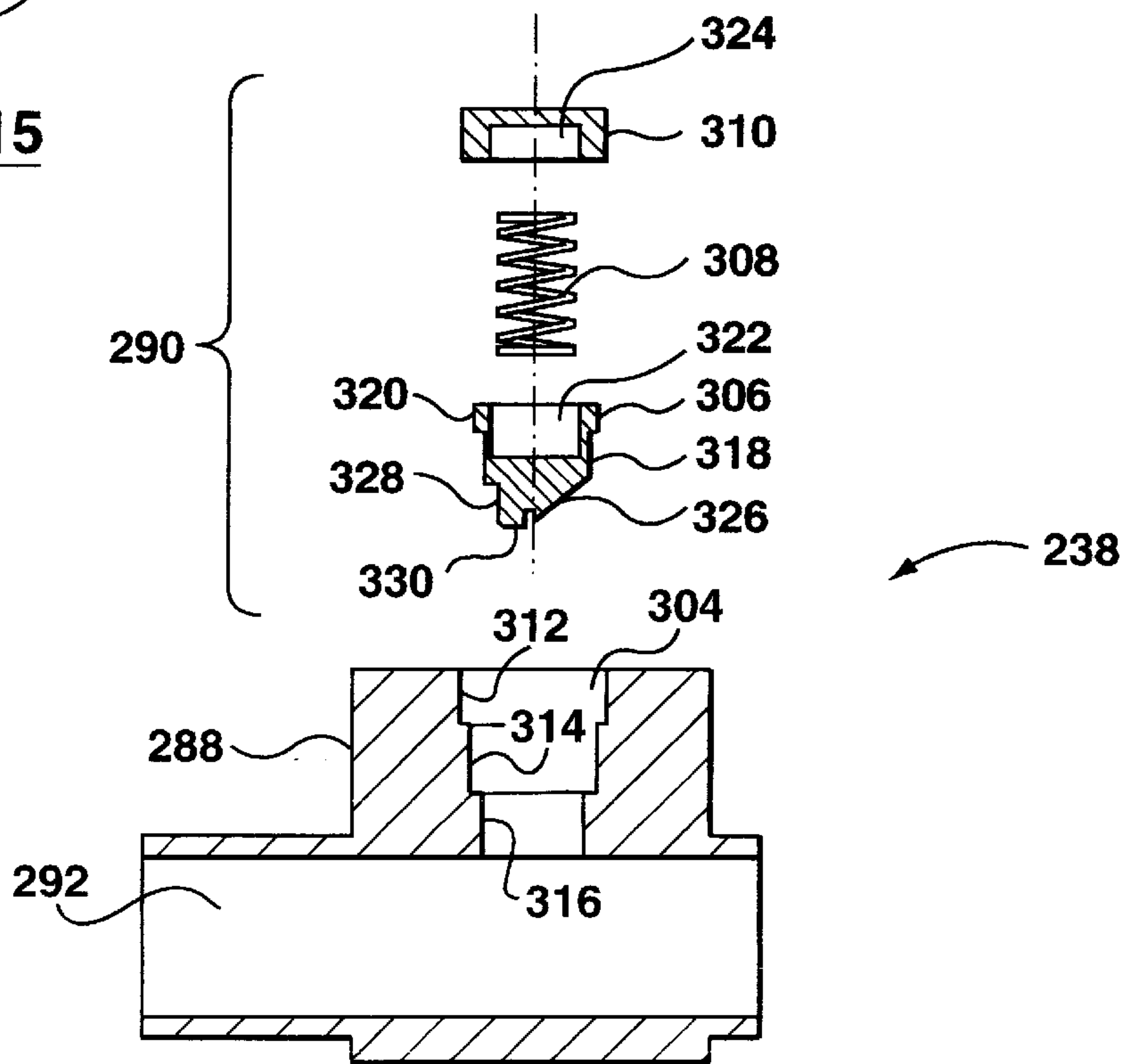


FIG. 14

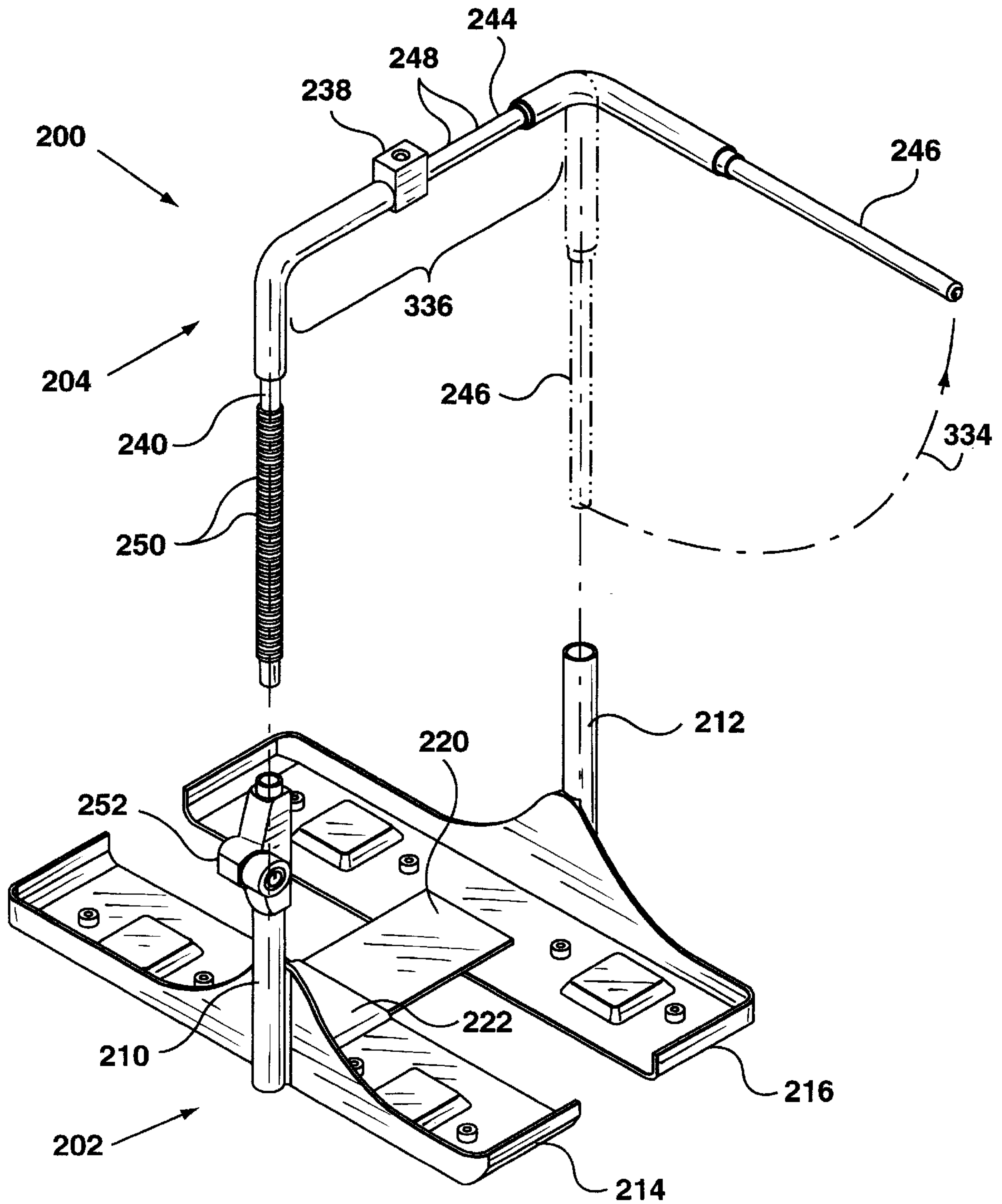


FIG. 16

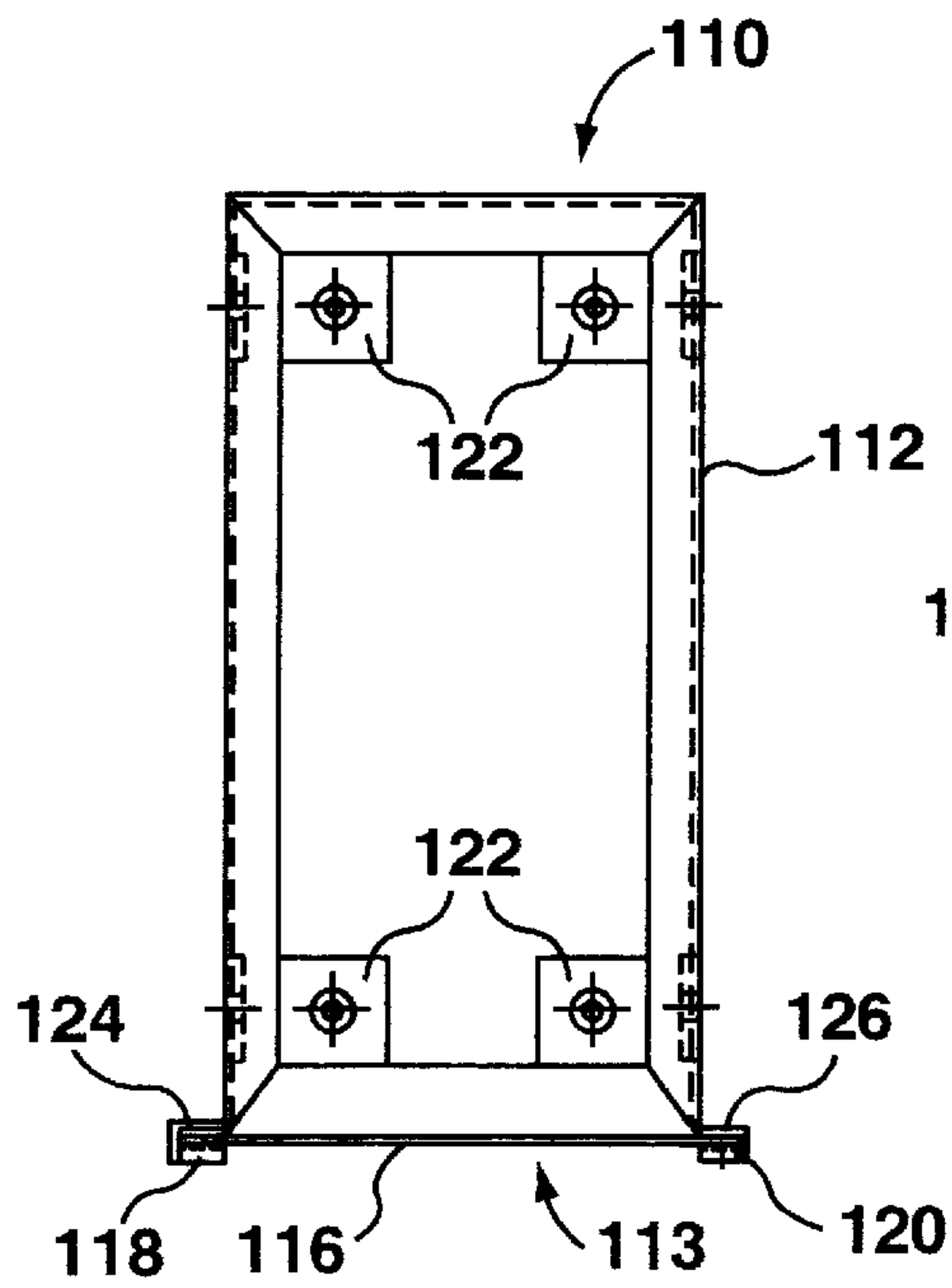


FIG. 19

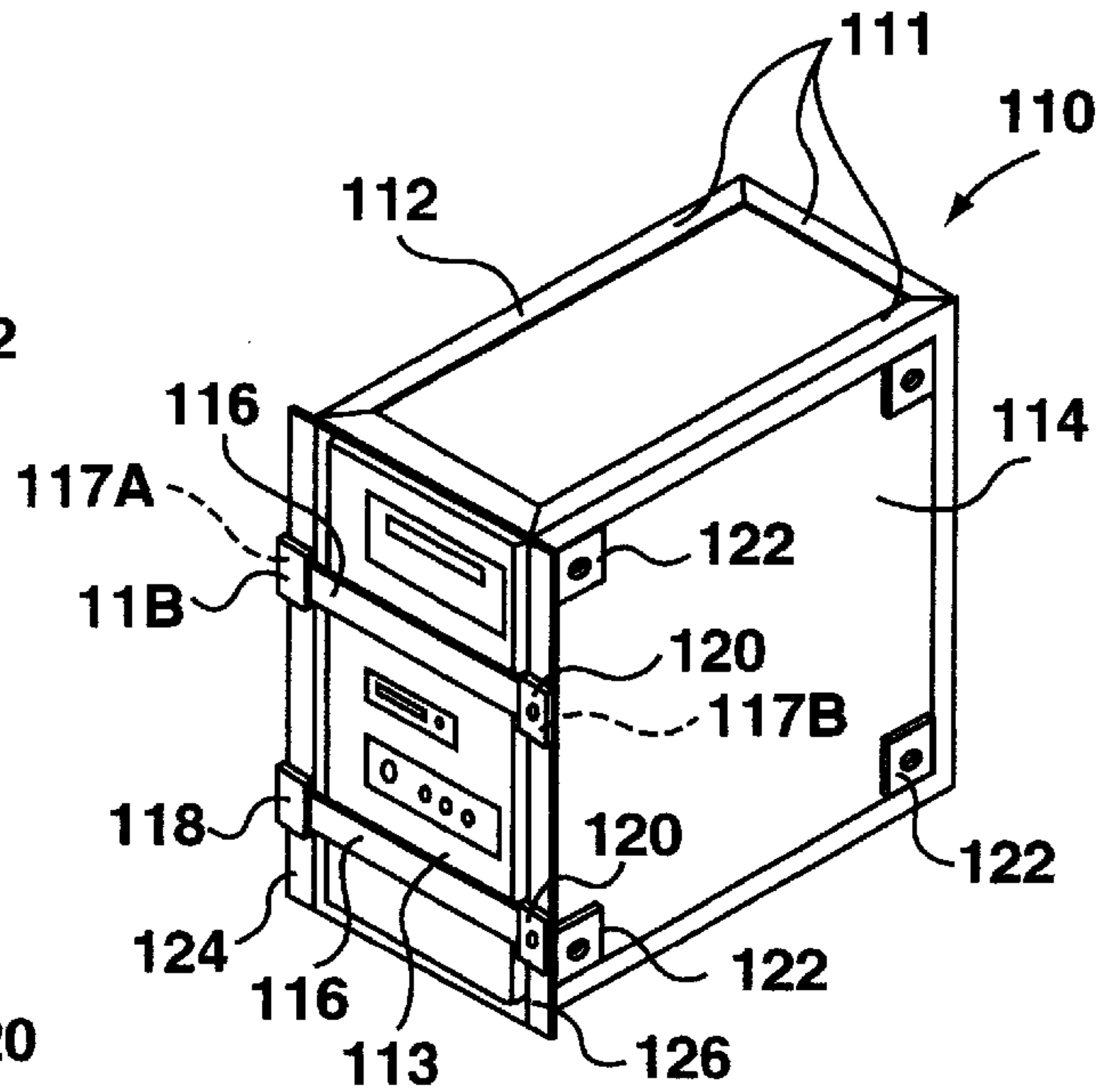


FIG. 17

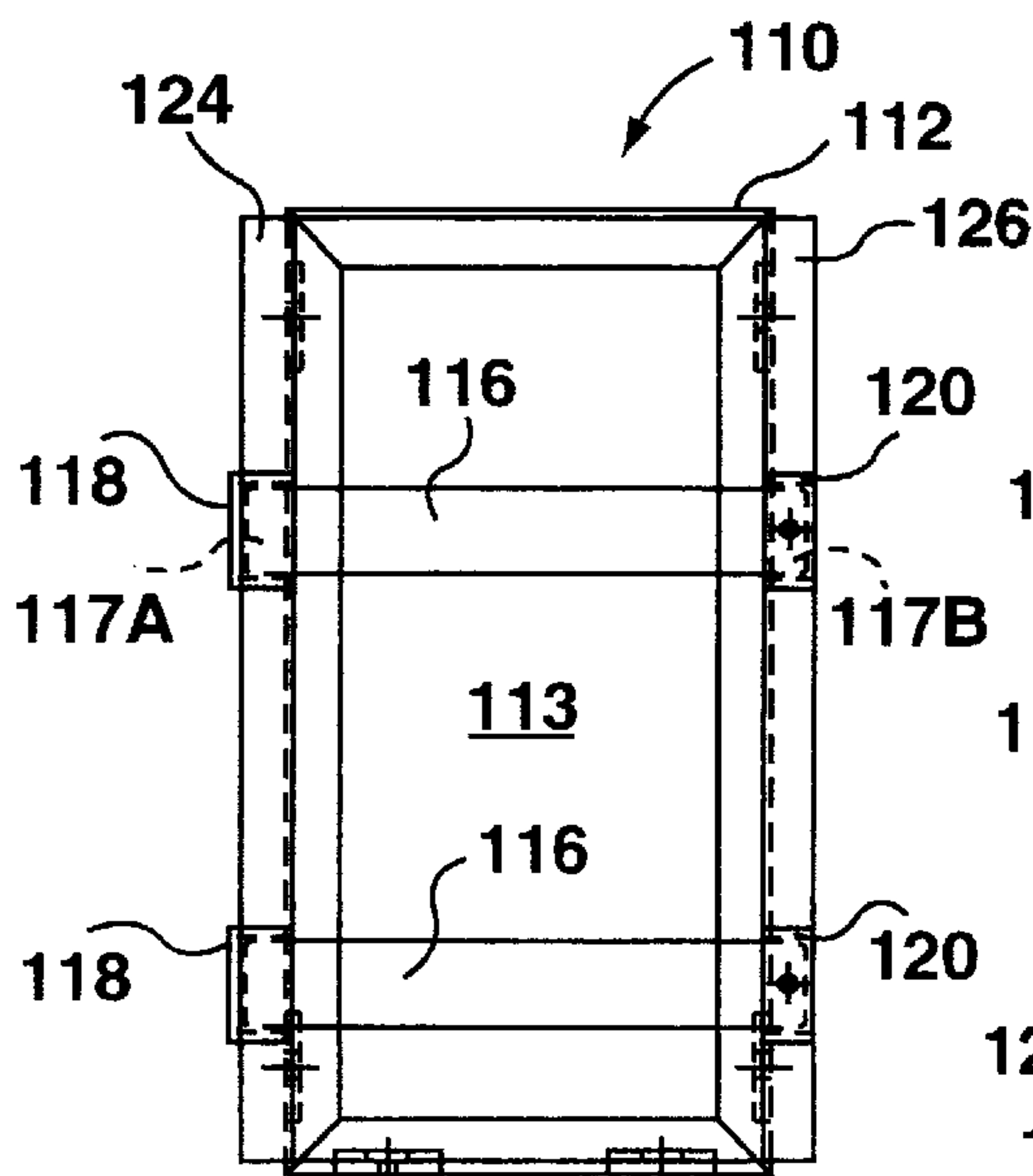


FIG. 18

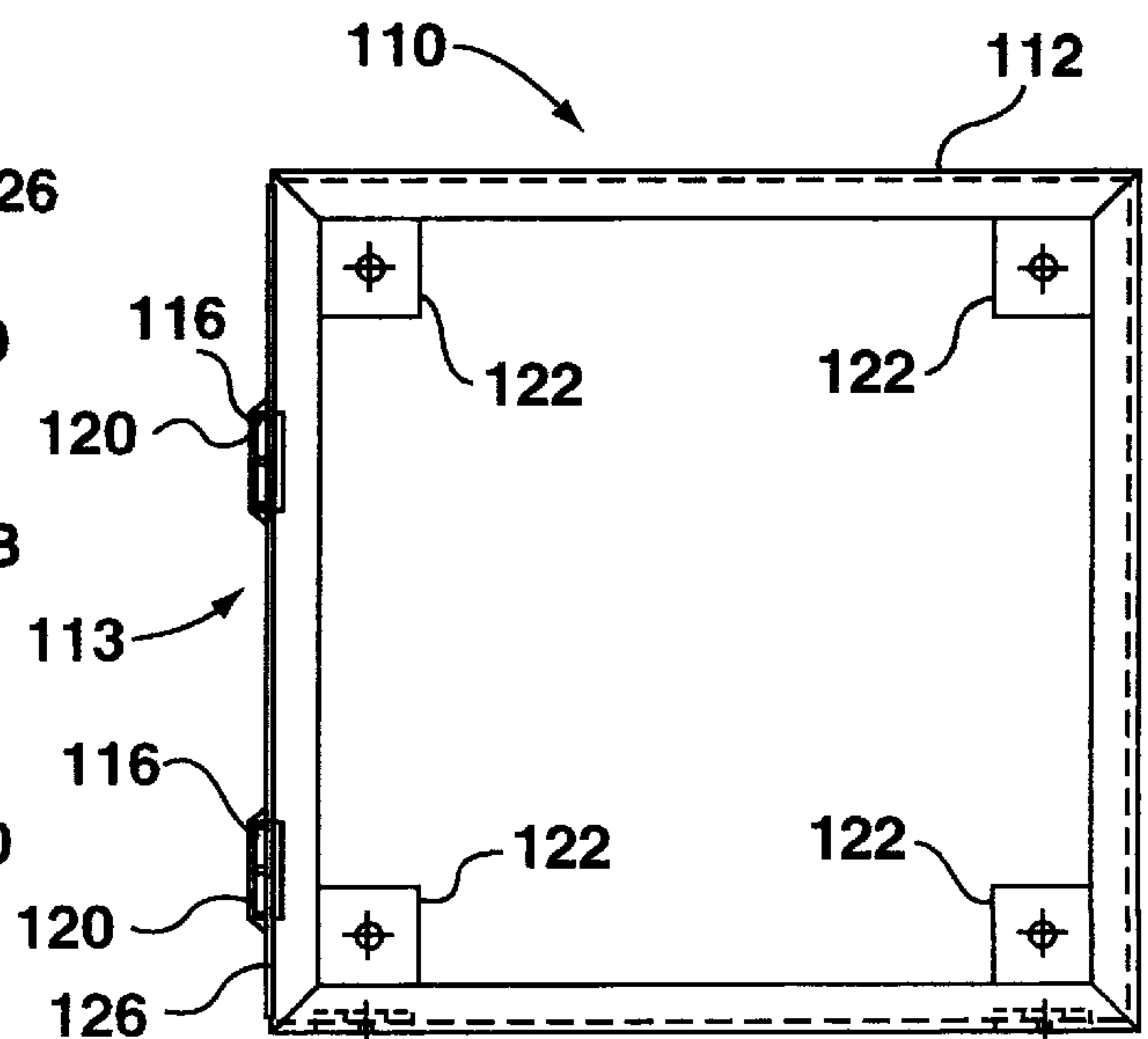


FIG. 20

ANTI-THEFT DEVICE FOR OFFICE EQUIPMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an anti-theft device for securing computer and other types of office equipment devices to a surface, and in particular such a device which is adjustable so that it can be used to secure computer and office equipment devices having a range of different sizes.

A variety of techniques and apparatus have been developed through the years for preventing the unauthorized removal of computer equipment. While a great many security devices have been made available in the past for deterring the theft of various types of computer equipment, the high cost and great popularity of current computer equipment requires devices which provide a higher degree of security while at the same time permitting use with equipment of varying sizes, and furthermore minimizing any inconvenience in using or protecting the equipment and keeping costs within reason.

A number of previously available apparatus have been known to incorporate bracket assemblies for securing computer equipment to a supporting surface. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,085,395 issued Feb. 4, 1992 to Frater et al discloses a security apparatus which includes a restraining arrangement that surrounds a portion of the computer equipment to be secured, and is itself secured to a supporting surface by an adhesive. U.S. Pat. No. 4,585,202 issued Apr. 29, 1986 to Parsekian also discloses an anti-theft device having a restraining arrangement which surrounds a portion of the computer equipment and allows it to be secured to a supporting surface. Such devices lack versatility in that the restraining arrangements cannot be adjusted to accommodate computer equipment of different sizes, but rather must be custom built to accommodate the dimensions of the particular piece of computer equipment to be secured.

Various universal type securing systems for use with a wide variety of computer equipment have also been developed, such as for example systems which make use of adhesive pads and steel cables. However, the low cost and flexibility provided by such systems typically comes at the cost of reduced security.

It is therefore desirable to provide an anti-theft device for computer equipment which provides a high degree of security and is adjustable for use with computer equipment of varying sizes within predetermined limits.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides an anti-theft device for computer equipment and other office equipment components which allows such components to be secured to a work surface.

According to one aspect of the invention, there is provided an anti-theft device for securing an office equipment component to a support surface, comprising a generally U-shaped base member adapted to be secured to the support surface, having an intermediate base frame for engaging a portion of the office equipment component, and first and second parallel arms extending from the base frame. The device includes a generally U-shaped clamping member having an intermediate clamp bar for engaging a further portion of the component, and first and second parallel arms extending from the clamp bar. The first and second parallel arms of one member are telescopically engaged with the first and second parallel arms, respectively, of the other member

such that the base frame and the clamp bar are opposed. The first parallel arm of one of the members has a plurality of adjacent teeth located along a portion thereof, and the first parallel arm of the other of the members has a locking device located thereon having a pawl movable between a locked position in which the pawl selectively engages one of the teeth thereby preventing separation of the base member and the clamping member when the members are engaged and the locking device is locked, and an unlocked position in which the base member and clamping member can be slid apart from each other when said locking device is unlocked, wherein the office equipment component to be secured can be located between the parallel arms of the base member and clamped between the base frame and the clamp bar. Preferably, the base frame includes a base plate for receiving and supporting the equipment component to be secured, the base plate having a plurality of securing holes formed therethrough for securing the base member to the support surface.

According to a further aspect of the invention, there is an anti-theft device for securing an office equipment component to a support surface, comprising a generally U-shaped base member having an intermediate base frame and first and second parallel arms extending from the base frame and spaced apart to receive the equipment component to be secured therebetween, the base frame including a base plate having opposite-facing surfaces for receiving the office equipment component and placement against the support surface, respectively, a plurality of securing holes for receiving securing means being provided through the base plate for securing the base member to the support surface. The device also includes a generally U-shaped clamping member having an intermediate clamp bar for engaging the office equipment component and first and second parallel arms extending from the clamp bar. The first and second parallel arms of one member are telescopically engaged with the first and second parallel arms, respectively, of the other member such that the base plate and clamp bar are opposed. Locking means are associated with the first parallel arms of the members and comprise a series of adjacent stop surfaces and a locking device for engaging the stop surfaces such that the clamp bar can be selectively locked into one of a number of possible positions relative to the base plate, wherein the equipment component can be clamped between the base frame and the clamp bar.

According to a further aspect of the invention, an anti-theft device for securing an office equipment component to a support surface is provided which comprises a base member adapted to be secured to the support surface, having an intermediate base frame and first and second arms extending from opposite sides of the base frame for receiving the office equipment component therebetween, the width of the base frame being adjustable such that the distance that the first and second arms of the base member are separated can be varied to accommodate the office equipment component. The device also includes a clamping member having an intermediate clamp bar and first and second arms extending orthogonally from opposite ends of the clamp bar, the width of the clamp bar being adjustable such that the distance that the first and second arms of the clamping member are separated can be varied to accommodate the office equipment component. The first and second arms of one member are telescopically mountable to the first and second arms, respectively, of the other member, such that the base frame and clamp bar are opposed. Locking means are associated with the first arms of the members, comprising a stop member, and a plurality of stop member engagement

surfaces located along one of the first arms such that said clamping bar can be selectively locked into one of a number of possible positions relative to the base plate, wherein the equipment component can be secured between the base frame and the clamp bar.

According to still a further aspect of the invention, there is an anti-theft device for securing a computer equipment component to a support surface, comprising a frame for receiving and storing the computer equipment component, the frame having an opening for inserting and removing the computer equipment component therefrom. A plurality of securing pads are located on the frame and have holes formed therethrough for receiving securing means to secure the frame to the support surface. The device also includes a flat, planar locking bar for placement across the frame opening having first and second opposite end portions, a first sleeve connected to the frame on one side of said frame opening for receiving the first end portion of the locking bar, and a second sleeve connected to said frame to another side of the frame opening for receiving the second end portion of the locking bar. The second sleeve and second end portion of the locking bar each have a hole located therethrough, the holes being aligned when the second end portion is received within the second sleeve. The device includes locking means for insertion through the holes when they are aligned to prevent unauthorized removal of the locking bar. When the first and second end portions of the locking bar are received within the first and second sleeves, respectively, removal of the computer equipment component from the frame is prevented.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For better understanding of the invention, and to show how the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the anti-theft device in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross sectional view taken along the lines II—II of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a side sectional view showing a ratchet locking mechanism of the anti-theft device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along the lines IV—IV of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a variation of the anti-theft device of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a further preferred embodiment of the anti-theft device of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of still a further preferred embodiment of an anti theft device of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is an elevational view of the anti theft device of FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a partial elevation of the anti theft device of FIG. 7, showing the locking device engaging the teeth of the first locking arm;

FIG. 10 is an enlarged partial cross sectional view of a portion of the locking device showing movement of the ratchet teeth during insertion into the locking device;

FIG. 11 is an enlarged partial cross sectional view of the same portion of the locking device showing the ratchet teeth being withdrawn from the locking device;

FIG. 12 is a detailed cross sectional view taken along line XII—XII of FIG. 8, showing a locking mechanism useful in connection with the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a partial elevational view of the anti-theft device of FIG. 7, showing the upper lock engaging the teeth of the locking bar;

FIG. 14 is an exploded cross-sectional view of the upper lock;

FIG. 15 is a cross section view taken along the lines XV—XV of FIG. 7;

FIG. 16 is a further perspective view of the anti-theft device of FIG. 7;

FIG. 17 shows a perspective view of a further embodiment of an anti-theft device for computers;

FIG. 18 is a front end sectional elevation of the anti-theft device of FIG. 17;

FIG. 19 is a sectional plan elevation of the anti-theft device of FIG. 17; and

FIG. 20 is a right sectional side elevation of the anti-theft device of FIG. 17.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 shows an anti-theft device 10 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The anti-theft device 10 includes a substantially U-shaped base member 11 which has an intermediate base frame 12 and first and second parallel arms 14,15. The device further includes a U-shaped clamping member 16 which can be telescopically engaged to base member 11 for securing a computer device (shown by phantom lines 18) to the base frame 12.

The U-shaped clamping member 16 includes an intermediate clamp bar 20 and first and second parallel arms 22,23 which extend orthogonally from opposite ends of the intermediate clamp bar 20. Each of the arms 22,23 has a distal end portion 24 which is configured to be telescopically mounted on an upper distal end of the arms 14,15 respectively, thus enabling the clamping member 16 to be slidably mounted relative to the base frame 12. In particular, with reference to FIG. 2 the first arm member 22 of the clamping member includes a central planar section 26 with two semi-circular flanges 28 running along the opposite side edges of the central portion 26. Similarly first arm 14 of the base member also includes a planar central portion 30 with semi-circular flanges 32 running along the opposite side edges thereof. The arm 14 and arm 22 are sized relative to each other such that when the upper distal end portion of the base member arm 14 is slidably received within the lower distal end portion 24 of the clamping member arm 22, the semi-circular flanges 32 of the base member arm 14 are snugly received within the semi-circular flanges 28 of the clamping member arm, thus providing a tight sliding telescopic fit between the two arms. The second arms 15 and 23 are identical to first arms 14 and 22, respectively, and thus any description herein of arms 14 and 22 also applies in respect of arms 15 and 23 unless otherwise noted. Preferably, a number of ribs 34 are provided along the length of semi-circular flanges 28 to provide a contact surface for semi-circular flanges 32 in order to facilitate sliding movement of the clamping member 16 relative to the base member 11.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGS. 1-3, the clamping member 16 and base member arms 14,15 are preferably each formed from extruded aluminum, thus providing the anti-theft device with a light weight. The clamping member 16 can be formed from a single piece of extruded aluminum folded at the appropriate places to form

intermediate bar **20** and the two parallel arms **22,23**. In order to provide additional strength, two parallel channels **36** are preferably provided along the length of the inner surface of the clamping member **16** into which hardened steel strips **38** are placed. Channels **36** are preferably formed along the length of each of the base member arms **14,15** as well for receiving hardened steel strips **38**. The presence of the hardened steel strips **38** in the base member arms **14,15** and clamping member arms **22,23** significantly increases the effort required by a potential thief to cut through the clamping member **16** and arms **14,15**.

Parallel flanges **40**, having an L-shaped cross section, are provided along the length of each of the base member arms **14,15** to further strengthen such arms. As indicated in FIG. 2, the flanges **40** extend into a space **42** that is provided between the base member arm **14** and the clamping member arm **22** when the clamping member **16** telescopically engages base member **11**. A number of equally spaced teeth **44** are located along one of the flanges **44** of each of the base member arms **14,15**. Furthermore, each of the clamping member arms **22,23** includes a key locking device **46** for selectively engaging one of the teeth **44** to prevent unauthorized removal of the clamping member **16** from the base member **11**.

Each locking device **46** is preferably a conventional, commercially available key locking device which extends through a hole provided in its corresponding arm member **22,23**. As shown in FIG. 3, such a locking device **46** would preferably include a locking pawl **48** for engaging one of the teeth **44** when the locking device **46** is locked. The locking device **46** includes a retainer nut **50** fastened to the barrel of locking device **46** to hold it in place. The locking pawl **48** is secured to the locking device barrel by means of a retainer screw **52**. When the locking device **46** is unlocked, the pawl **48** will be in an unlocked position in which it is pointed downwards, thus enabling the clamping member **16** to be slid along the base frame arms **14,15** away from the base frame **12**. When the locking device **46** is locked, the pawl **48** is in a locked position and extends horizontally towards and engages teeth **44**, preventing movement of the clamping member **16** away from the base frame **12**.

Preferably, teeth **44** and locking device **46** are configured to function as a ratchet assembly, such that the clamping member **16** can be advanced towards, but not retracted from, the base member **11** when the locking device **46** is locked. The teeth **44** are equally spaced cut-outs along the flange **40** which are configured to allow the locking pawl **48** to travel in one direction when the locking device **46** is engaged. The teeth **44** each have a curved lower edge **45** for contacting a lower correspondingly curved edge of the pawl **48**, so that the pawl **48** can, when moving in a downward direction, roll up and out of engagement with such teeth. Locking device **46** preferably includes a return spring **54** which allows locking pawl **48** to move up and out of engagement with a tooth **44** and spring back into engagement with the next tooth **44** when the clamping member **16** is being pushed downwards and the locking device **46** is in its engaged position. Each of the teeth **44** has a flat lower edge for engaging an correspondingly flat upper edge **47** of pawl **48**. Downward movement of pawl **48** is prevented when locking device **46** is locked, so that in its engaged position the locking device allows the clamping member **16** to be pushed towards the base frame **12**, but not extended away from the base frame **12** unless the locking device **46** is unlocked.

With reference to FIG. 1, the base frame **12** preferably includes a substantially planar base plate **56**. The dimensions of the base plate **56** correspond to the footprint of the largest

computer equipment device that the anti-theft device **10** is intended to be used with. An upwardly extending flange **58** preferably extends around the outer edge of the base plate **56**. The parallel base member arms **14, 15** are connected to the base frame **12** by means of triangular shaped gusset plates **60** which extend upwards from opposite sides of the base plate **56**. A hinge pin **62** is used to connect each of the arms **14,15** to its corresponding gusset plate **60**. Preferably, the arms **14,15** are pivotally attached by their respective hinge pins **62** to the base frame **12** so that they can be rotated relative to the base frame **12** in order to facilitate shipping and storage of the anti-theft device **10**.

A plurality of securing holes **64** are provided through base plate **56** to allow the base member **11** to be secured to a supporting surface by means of fastening devices such as screws or bolts or ram-set nails and the like. Preferably at least four raised support pads **66** (only three of which are shown in FIG. 1) are provided on the base plate **56** for engaging and supporting the bottom surface of the computer equipment device that is to be secured. The base plate **12** is preferably constructed from a metal material suitable for use with current injection moulding or metal stamping technology.

The intermediate clamp bar **20** preferably includes a centrally located depression **68** which has a planar lower clamp plate portion **70** for engaging an upper surface of the computer equipment device to be secured. The underside of the lower clamp plate portion **70** is preferably located in a plane that is at least as low as any other part of the intermediate clamp bar **20** to ensure that the clamp plate portion **70** comes into contact with the upper surface of the computer equipment device to be secured.

The anti-theft device **10** preferably includes a number of friction enhancing traction pads **72** attached to its computer equipment contacting surfaces in order to prevent lateral motion of secured computer equipment relative to the base frame **12** and intermediate clamp portion **20**. In particular, a traction pad **72** is provided on the upper surface of each of the support pads **66**, and two traction pads **72** are preferably provided on the underside of lower clamp plate **70**. With reference to FIG. 4, each of the traction pads **72** preferably include two halves **73A** and **73B**, each of which has an adhesive such as double sided tape **75** located on one side thereof and interconnection means **77** located on the other side thereof. One half **73A** is secured to the corresponding support pad or clamp plate by means of its double-sided tape **75**, and the other half **73B** is intended to be secured to a surface of the computer equipment device **18** by means of its double-sided tape **75**. The interconnecting material of the two halves **73A** and **73B** of the traction pad comprise a self-locking material including a plurality of extending parts that when placed face-to-face and compressed together interlocks such that the two halves cannot be separated using lateral force. One commercially available material suitable for use as traction pads in the present invention is 3M #SJ-3551 DUAL LOCK (trade-mark).

Prior to or after sale of the anti-theft device **10**, each of the anti-skid pads **72** is secured to its corresponding support surface of the device **10** by peeling the double sided tape from one of the halves while both halves are still attached together, and securing such pads to their corresponding support surfaces. When a computer equipment device is to be secured to the anti-theft device **10**, the double sided tape on the other half is then removed so that when the computer equipment device is clamped by the anti-theft device **10**, such other halves will become secured to the computer equipment in the appropriate locations.

With references to FIGS. 1 through 3, the use and operation of the anti-theft device 10 to secure a computer equipment component will now be described in greater detail. As a first step, the base member arms 14,15 are rotated into an upright position so that they extend orthogonally from base plate 56. The base frame 12 is then secured to a supporting surface by means of bolts or screws, or ram-set nails, placed through securing holes 64. It will be appreciated that other securing means, such as adhesive, could be used in conjunction with such screws or bolts, or on its own, to secure the base frame 12 to a supporting surface. The computer component 18 is then positioned on the base frame 12 between base frame arms 14,15 such that portions of its lower surface rest on the support pads 66. Preferably, one half of each of the four traction pads 72 provided on base frame 12 have been connected to the lower surface of computer device 18 in the appropriate spots for lining up with the complimentary traction pad halves located on support pads 66.

The securing holes 64 are located such that when the computer device 18 is placed on the base frame 12, access to the securing holes 64 is blocked. In this regard, securing holes 64 are preferably off-set from the side edges of the base plate 56 a sufficient distance that they will be covered by computer devices 18 having a variety of different footprint sizes. Support pads 66 are also positioned so that they can support computer devices having a range of different footprint sizes.

Once the computer device 18 is placed on the base frame 12, the clamping member 16 is secured to the base frame 12 by telescopically mounting arms 22,23 to parallel first and second base member arms 14,15 respectively, ensuring the locking devices 46 are in their engaged position, and sliding the clamping member 16 downward towards the base frame 12 until the lower clamping plate 70 comes into contact with the upper surface of the computer device 18. As noted above, locking devices 46 are preferably spring loaded so that they will "ratchet" down along teeth 44 until the clamping member 16 tightly secures the computer device 18 to the base frame 12, at which point the computer device 18 is firmly locked in place. As noted above, traction pads 72 are provided on the lower surface of lower clamp plate 70 to engage the top surface of computer device 18.

When the clamping member 16 is in its locked position, the inner lock mechanisms (such as locking pawl 38 of the locking devices 46, and teeth 44) are concealed in the spaces 42 between the base member arms 14,15 and the clamping member arms 22,23 thus preventing access to such components. Furthermore, once the clamping member 16 is tightly clamped against computer device 18, the only manner in which it can be removed is to use a key to disengage both locking devices 46 which are located on opposite sides of the anti-theft device 10. The presence of traction pads 72 help to further prevent any movement of the computer device 18 laterally with respect to the base frame 12 and clamping member 16.

The anti-theft device shown in FIG. 1 and described above can be used to secure computer equipment devices of varying sizes within predetermined limits. The device specifically illustrated in FIG. 1 is intended to be used with tower type computer housings. It will be appreciated that the anti-lock device 10 could be used with towers having a wide range of different heights as the row of teeth located on each of the connecting members allows the clamping members 16 to be clamped in a selected one of a number of possible positions relative to the base frame 12. Furthermore, the anti-theft device shown in FIG. 1 can be used with computer

equipment having a wide range of footprint profiles as well. The largest computer device that the anti-theft device 10 could be used to secure would be limited to a maximum width equal to the spacing between the gusset plates 60, and a minimum width such that the tower would still be able to rest on support pads 66 and cover securing holes 64. Thus, the anti-theft device 10 of the present invention provides a strong anti-theft device which provides a high degree of security against unauthorized access while at the same time being adjustable to accommodate a range of different sized computer devices within predetermined limits.

Although the computer anti-theft device 10 illustrated in FIG. 1 is generally designed to prevent theft of tower type computer housings, it will be appreciated that the present invention could be incorporated into anti-theft devices for other general shapes of computer and office equipment housing. For example, FIG. 5 illustrates a further anti-theft device 80 which is identical to anti-theft device 10 except that it is configured for use with desktop style computer devices.

It will also be appreciated that the anti-theft device 10 could be constructed in many different ways while still employing the basic principles of the present invention. For example, the interface between base member arms 14,15 and clamping member arms 22,23 could be reversed such that the clamping member arms 22,23 would be slidably received within the base member arms 14,15 with teeth 44 being located on the clamping member arms 22,23 and locking devices 46 being located on the base member arms 14,15. Furthermore a locking device 46 could be provided on only one of the arms 22 or 23 instead of locking devices on both arms. Traction pads 72 could take other forms, such as simple rubber pads. Of course, the anti-theft device of the present invention could also be used to secure other types of office equipment in addition to computer equipment.

As can be seen in FIG. 1, in the preferred embodiment illustrated, gusset plates 60 are preferably located closer to the back of base frame 12 than the front of base frame 12 so that the clamping member 16 will be located closer to the back upper portion of device 18 and the front portion. Such configuration ensures that the handle which is located on the front of many tower type computer housing does not interfere with the operation of the anti-theft device 10.

A further embodiment of the anti-theft device of the present invention is indicated generally by arrow 90 in FIG. 6. Anti-theft device 90 is similar in construction and operation as above described anti-theft device 10 except as hereinafter noted.

Anti-theft device 90 includes a generally U-shaped base member 91 having a base frame 12 identical to that discussed above. Anti-theft device 90 includes a substantially U-shaped clamping member 94 having an intermediate clamp bar 96 and first and second spaced-apart parallel arms 98 which extend orthogonally from opposite ends of the intermediate clamp portion 96. The clamping member arms 98 are each hollow tubular structures formed from hardened steel tubing and each have a locking device 100 located at a lower end thereof and a steel, L-shaped connecting portion 102 located at an upper end thereof. The intermediate clamp bar 96, which is preferably constructed of hardened steel, is connected to arm members 98 by connecting portions 102.

The first and second base member parallel arms 92, which preferably each comprise a hardened steel rod, are connected to a respective gusset plate 60 of the base frame 12. A number of equally spaced annular teeth 104 are provided along a length of the upper portions of both base member

arms **92**. The upper ends of the first and second base member arms **92** are configured to be telescopically engaged within the first and second clamping member arms **98**, respectively, in order to slidably mount the clamping member **94** to the base member **91**. Locking devices **100** engage the annular teeth **104** thus enabling the clamping member **94** to be secured relative to the base frame **12** in one of a selected plurality of possible positions, each of such positions representing a different separation distance between the intermediate clamp portion **96** and the base frame **12**. Traction pads **72** are preferably located on the underside of intermediate clamp portion **96** for attachment to a computer equipment device in a manner described above.

The locking device **100** and teeth **104** are preferably configured according to known ratchet type lock technology so that the clamping member **94** and base member **91** can be slid toward each other, but not moved away from each other, when the locking device is locked. A suitable configuration for the locking device **100** and teeth **104** is described below in respect of anti-theft device **200**, and also as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,488,844 issued Feb. 6, 1996 to Kevin Winner.

Each of the base member arms **92** is connected to its corresponding gusset plate **60** by means of a forked connector **106** which includes two halves between which the gusset plate **60** is received. Hinge pins extend through both halves of the forked connector members **106** and gusset plates **62** to pivotally secure the arms **92** to the base frame **12**.

In operation, the anti-theft device **90** operates similarly to the anti-theft device **10** described above.

FIG. 7 shows an anti-theft device **200** that is a variation of the device **10**, in accordance with still a further preferred embodiment of the present invention. The anti-theft device **200** includes a substantially U-shaped base member **202** and a substantially U-shaped clamping member **204** which can be telescopically engaged to base member **202** for securing a computer device (shown by phantom lines **206**) therebetween.

As will be explained in greater detail below, both the height and width of the anti-theft device **200** can be adjusted, which enables it to be used to secure office equipment having a wide variety of heights and widths.

The base member **202** includes an intermediate base frame **208** and first and second parallel arms **210**, **212** which extend from opposite sides of the base frame **208**. The base member arms **210**, **212**, can be formed from tubular hardened steel. The base frame **208** includes two adjacent base sections **214** and **216** which are slidably connected together such that the width of the base frame **208** can be adjusted.

Each of the first and second base sections **214** and **216** includes a substantially planar rectangular base plate portion **218** and an upwardly extending flange **220** preferably extends around the three outer peripheral edges of each of the base plates **218**. In order to slidably connect the first and second base sections **214** and **216** together, a rigid planar tongue member **220** is connected to and extends away from the second base section **216** in the direction of the first base section **214** where it is slidably received within a corresponding sleeve member **222** that is provided on the base plate **218** of the first base section **214**,

The flanges **220** which extend around the base plates **218** each include an upwardly extending gusset plate portion **224**, with the two gusset plates **224** being located on opposite sides of the base frame **208**. The first parallel arm **210** is rigidly connected to the gusset plate **224** of first base

section **214**, and the second parallel arm **212** is rigidly connected to the gusset plate **224** of the second base section **216**.

Each of the base plates **218** preferably includes two upwardly extending support pads **226** for engaging the underside of computer device **206**, and conveniently a traction pad **72** may be located on each of them support pads **226** to help prevent lateral movement of the computer device **206** when it is secured with the anti-theft device **200**. A plurality of securing holes **228** are located along each of the base plates **218** to allow the base member **202** to be secured to a supporting surface by means of fastening devices such as bolts **230** or screws or ramset nails and the like.

The substantially U-shaped clamping member **204** comprises an intermediate clamp bar **336**, with first and second arms **232**, **234** which extend orthogonally from opposite ends of the clamp bar **336**. The width of the clamp bar **336** is adjustable allowing the distance that the first and second clamp member arms **232**, **234** are separated to be set to accommodate the width of the computer device **206**. In particular, the clamping member **204** includes a hardened steel L-shaped tubular member **236**, a lock device **238** located at one end of the tubular member **236**, and a hardened steel cylindrical rod **240** which extends from the other end of the tubular member **236**. The clamping member **204** also includes a further hardened steel L-shaped tubular member **242**, a cylindrical hardened steel locking bar **244** extending from one end of the tubular member **242**, and a second hardened steel cylindrical rod **246** extending from the other end of the tubular member **242**. The upper portion of the tubular member **236**, and upper lock **238** are configured to telescopically receive the locking bar **244** so that the first and second locking rods **240** and **246** can be arranged parallel to each other and the distance therebetween adjusted by increasing or decreasing the extent to which the locking bar **244** is received within the upper lock **238** and tubular member **236**. Thus, the first clamp member arm **232** includes the rod **240** and the portion of tubular member **236** that is axially aligned with the rod **240**. The second clamp member arm **234** includes the rod **246**, and the portion of the tubular member **234** that is aligned with the rod **246**. The clamp bar **336** includes the horizontal portions of the tubular members **236** and **234**, lock **238**, and locking bar **244**. As will be discussed in greater detail below, a number of teeth **248** are preferably provided along the locking bar **244** for selective engagement by the upper lock **238** to prevent separation of the first and second arms **232**, **234** when the device **200** is in use.

The first and second locking rods **240**, **246** are configured to be telescopically received within the first and second parallel arms **210**, **212**, respectively, of the base member **202**, thus enabling the clamping member **204** to be slidably mounted relative to the base frame **208**. A number of ratchet teeth **250** are provided along the portion of the first locking rod **240**, and a lock device **252** is located on an upper end of the first parallel arm **210** for receiving and engaging the ratchet teeth **250**, such that the clamping member **204** can be locked in place relative to the base member **202**, with a desired separation distance between the clamp bar **336** and the base frame **208**.

With reference to FIGS. 9–12, the operation of the locking device **252** and its interaction with the ratchet teeth **250** of the first locking arm **240** will now be described in greater detail. The locking device **252** has a hardened steel lock housing **254**, a lower end **256** of which is telescopically received within the upper end of the first parallel arm **210** and secured thereto by suitable means such as brazing or

welding. A cylindrical passageway 258 is provided through the lock housing 254 for telescopically receiving the first locking rod 240.

The locking device 252 contains a pawl 260 in a blind hole 262, said pawl having an angular end surface 264 urged into the passageway 258 by spring 266. The ratchet teeth 250 are preferably frustal-conical projections located along a portion of the length of the first locking rod 240.

FIG. 10 shows the action of the locking device with the first locking rod 240 being inserted into passageway 258, while FIG. 11 shows the locking device 252 in the unlocked position, with the pawl in a retracted position thereby facilitating removal of the first locking rod 240 from the passageway 258. The lock housing 252 includes a blind hole 262, and a lock cylinder hole 268 at right angles to the blind hole 262. A locking mechanism 255 disposed within the lock housing 254 includes a coil spring 266 and a ratchet pawl 260 extending from the coil spring and through an end of the blind hole 262 into the annular passageway 258. The ratchet pawl 260 includes an angular end surface 264, a groove 270 and a torque blade surface 271 within the groove 270. The locking mechanism 255 further comprises a key lock cylinder 272 having a key slot 274 (shown in FIG. 8) and a torque blade 276. The torque blade extends into the groove 270 in the ratchet pawl 260 to register and co-operate with the torque blade surface 271.

Operation of the locking mechanism 255 is shown in FIGS. 10, 11 and 12. As shown in FIG. 12, the coil spring 266 normally biases the ratchet pawl 260 outwardly of the blind hole 262 into engagement with the inner cylindrical surface 278 of the ratchet teeth 250. Movement of the first locking arm through the annular passageway 258 indicated by the arrow in FIG. 10 causes the conical bearing surface 280 of the ratchet teeth to act against the angular end surface 264 of the pawl, whereby the pawl 260 is biased into the blind hole 262 thereby compressing spring 266. As each ratchet tooth passes the pawl, the spring 266 urges the pawl back into the annular space between the conical surfaces. Use of the key lock cylinder 272 to rotate torque blade 276 to act against the torque blade surface 271 of the pawl, as shown in FIG. 11, holds the pawl in the position retracted from the annular passageway 258, thereby permitting withdrawal of the locking bar 240 from the passageway 258. However, with the pawl in a position shown in FIG. 10, the stop surface contact 282 of the pawl abuts the stop surface 284 of the ratchet tooth thereby preventing the arm 240 from being withdrawn from the locking device 252. This represents the locking device in the locked position. The key lock cylinder 272 is retained within the key hole by locking pin 286.

With reference to FIGS. 13, 14 and 15 the operation of the upper lock 238 and the manner in which it engages the teeth 248 that are located along the locking bar 244 will now be described.

The upper lock 238 includes a housing 288, and a locking mechanism 290 which is contained within housing 288 and functions to engage the teeth 248 of the locking bar 244.

The housing 288, which is preferably formed from hardened steel, includes an annular passageway 292 there-through for receiving the locking bar 244. The housing 252 includes a cylindrical portion 294 through which the passageway 292 extends and which is telescopically received within the upper end of the first L-shaped tubular member 236, and is secured thereto by suitable means such as brazing or welding.

Each of the ratchet teeth 248, which are located longitudinally along the locking bar 244 has a stop surface 296, and

a sloped surface 298 connecting a flat landing surface 300 with an outer partially cylindrical surface 302.

The lock housing 288 includes a blind hole 304 located at right angles to the annular passageway 292. The locking mechanism 290, which includes a ratchet pawl 306, a coil spring 308 and a retaining plug 310 is received within the blind hole 304 such that the ratchet pawl 306 is urged into the passageway 292 for engaging the teeth 248 of the locking bar 244. In particular, the blind hole 304 comprises three vertically aligned cylindrical sections 312, 314 and 316, the sections 314 and 316 each having a smaller diameter than the section above it. The lower section 316 is configured to slidably receive a lower portion 318 of the ratchet pawl 306, and the middle section 314 is configured to slidably receive a cylindrical upper portion 320 of the pawl 306. The difference in diameter between the upper and lower portions of the pawl 306, and the middle and lower sections of the blind hole 304 function to limit the distance to which the lower portion 318 of the ratchet pawl can extend into the passageway 292. The retainer plug 310 is received within the upper section 312 of the blind hole 304 and preferably secured thereto by brazing or welding or some other suitable means. A lower end of the spring 303 is received within an upwardly opening cylindrical cavity 322 in the pawl 306, and the other end of the spring 308 is received within a downwardly opening cavity 324 located in the retainer plug 310. When the locking mechanism 290 is received within the housing 288, a lower portion of the pawl 306 is urged into the annular passageway 292 by the spring 308.

In particular, an angular end surface 326 of the pawl is urged into the passageway 292. The pawl 306 also includes a stop surface contact 328. As shown in FIG. 13, the coil spring 308 normally biases the ratchet pawl 306 outwardly of the blind hole 304 into engagement with the flat landing surface 300 of the ratchet teeth 248. Movement of the locking bar 244 through the annular passageway 292 in the direction indicated by the arrow in FIG. 13 causes the sloped surface 298 of the ratchet teeth to act against the angular end surface 326 of the pawl, whereby the pawl 306 is biased into the blind hole 304 thereby compressing spring 308. As each ratchet tooth passes the pawl, the spring 308 urges the pawl back into engagement with the next flat landing surface 300. So long as the teeth 248 are facing upward in the direction of the pawl 306, retraction of the locking bar 244 from the passageway 292 is prevented as the stop surface contact 328 of the pawl engages the stop surface 296 of the ratchet tooth.

Once the locking bar 244 has been inserted into the passageway 292 far enough that the leading tooth 248 has passed beyond the pawl 306, the locking bar 244 must be rotated relative to the lock 238 in order for the locking bar 244 to be retracted from the lock 238. With reference to FIG. 15, it will be understood that teeth 248 only partially circumscribe the locking bar 244, and a circumferential portion, indicated by 332, is smooth along the length of the bar 244. When the locking bar 244 is rotated relative to the lock 252, the flat landing surface 300 will force the pawl 306 back into the blind hole 304 until eventually the lower end surface 330 of the pawl will rest on the cylindrical surface portion 332 of the bar 244. With the locking bar 244 located in such position, the pawl 306 does not engage any of the teeth 248, and according to the locking bar 244 can be withdrawn from the lock 238.

With reference to FIGS. 7-16, the operation of the computer securing device 200 to secure the computer equipment component 206 will now be described in greater detail. As a first step, the width of the base member 202 is adjusted

according to the width of the computer device **206** to be secured. In this regard, the distance that the first base section **214** and second base section **216** are separated from each other is adjusted by either inserting the tongue **220** further into sleeve **222**, or retracting it therefrom, as required so that the computer device **206** can be snugly received between the first and second parallel arms **210**, **212**. Once the width of the base member **202** has been appropriately adjusted, the base frame **208** is secured to a supporting surface by means of bolts **230**, or screws or ram set nails or similar securing means, placed through securing holes **228**. The computer device component **206** is then positioned on the base frame **12** between first and second arms **210** and **212** such that its base is received within the area defined by flanges **219** and portions of its lower surface rest on the support pads **226**. As noted above, in respect of anti-theft device **10**, traction pads **72** may be provided on each of the support pads **226** to help prevent against lateral movement of the computer device **206**. Once the computer device **206** is placed on the base frame **12**, the width of the clamping member **204** is adjusted so that the spacing between the first and second arms **232**, **234** corresponds to the distance between first and second parallel arms **210**, **212** of the base member **202**.

The width of the clamping member **204** can be decreased by pushing the first and second arms **232**, **234** towards each other, thereby increasing the distance that the locking bar **244** is received within the passageway **292** of the lock **238**. When the first and second arms **232**, **234** are arranged parallel to each other, the teeth **248** are aligned with and engaged by the spring loaded pawl **306**. Accordingly, although the arms **232** and **234** can be pushed together when they are parallel to each other, they cannot be separated. Therefore, in order to increase the distance between the parallel arms **232** and **234** it is necessary to rotate one of the arms relative to the other as indicated by dashed line **334** in FIG. **16**, which results in rotation of the locking bar **244** relative to the locking device **238**. Such rotation causes the spring loaded pawl **306** to be pushed upwards into the blind hole **304** and out of engagement with teeth **248**. With the locking bar **244** in such position, it can be retracted from the lock **238**, thereby allowing the width between the first and second locking arms **240**, **246** to be increased.

Once the desired width is achieved, and the first and second locking arms **232** and **234** parallel to each other, the clamping member **204** is slidably mounted to the base member **202** by telescoping the first and second rods **240**, **246** into the first and second parallel arms **210**, **212**, respectively, of the base member **202**. Clamping member **204** is slid downward, with the ratchet teeth **250** each being subsequently engaged by the locking device **252** until the clamping bar **336** of the clamping member **204** comes to rest on the upper surface of the computer device **206**, at which time the computer device is effectively clamped to the base member **202** by the clamping member **204**.

Once the rods **240** and **246** are located within the first and second parallel arms **210**, **212** respectively, they are locked in parallel relation to each other, with the result that the teeth **248** located along the locking bar **244** cannot be rotated out of contact with the spring loaded pawl **306**. Thus, once the clamping member **204** is mounted onto the base member **202**, the lock **238** engages teeth **248** to prevent prying apart of the first and second locking arms **240**, **246**.

It will be appreciated that the anti-theft device **200** is a device which can be adjusted both in height and width in order to be used with a wide range of computer and office equipment components having different heights and widths. In particular, the width of the anti-theft device **200** is

adjusted by setting the separation between the first and second base sections **214** and **216** by adjusting the degree to which the tongue **220** is received within sleeve **222**, and adjusting the separation between the first clamping member arm **232** and second clamping member **234** by adjusting the extent to which the locking bar **244** is telescopically received within lock **238**. The height of the anti-theft device **200** is dependent upon the extent to which the first and second locking rods **240**, **246** are received within the first and second parallel arms **210**, **212** respectively. It will be appreciated that the anti-theft device **200** can be used to secure office equipment components having a wide variety of sizes, and furthermore, anti-theft devices having different sizes and proportions can be constructed, each for use with office equipment components falling within certain sizes. For example, the anti-theft device shown in FIG. **7** can be used with tower-type computer components of varying sizes. The anti-theft device **200** could also be constructed with a wider base member **202**, and a lower height for use with desktop style computer chassis.

It will be appreciated that the lock devices **238** and **252**, and their associated ratchet teeth **250**, and **248** could take a number of different configurations. In this regard, the pawls of each of the locking devices functions as a stop member, with the teeth acting as stop surfaces to be engaged by the stop member. Other possible locking configurations include, for example, the substitution of aligned holes through the first parallel arm **210**, and the tubular member **236** in place of locks **252** and **238**, for receiving a pad lock or bolt. In such a configuration, teeth **250** and **248** would be replaced with rows of holes passing through the first locking rod **240** and locking bar **244**, respectively such that the pad locks or bolts could be used to secure the first locking rod **242** to the first parallel arm **210**, and the locking bar **244** to the tubular member **236**. Additionally, the anti-theft device could be constructed using the extruded aluminum construction of anti-theft device **10** as shown in FIGS. **1-4**, and use locking devices similar to those described in respect of anti-theft device **10**.

It will also be appreciated that the base sections **216** and **214** of anti-theft device **200** need not necessarily be slidably connected together, but rather just secured in position relative to each other to a securing surface.

A further anti-theft device constructed in accordance with the present invention is indicated generally by reference numeral **110** in FIGS. **17** to **20**. The anti-theft device **110** includes a rectangular open sided, box-like frame **112** which is formed from a plurality of angle iron bars **111** which have been welded together. The frame **112** is configured with six sides so that a computer tower **114** can be snugly slid into the frame **112** from an opening **113** provided in the front of the frame **112**. Two locking bars **116** are used to secure the computer tower within the frame **112** once the computer tower **114** has been fully slid into the frame **112**.

Preferably, the locking bars **116** are each flat, planar, rectangular bars which each have first and second end portions **117A** and **117B**, and which are slidably received within first and second sleeves **118** and **120** that are located on front upright members **124** and **126**, respectively, on opposite sides of the opening **113**. Each first sleeve **118** is comprised of a plate welded along its upper, lower and left edges to upright member **124**. Each first sleeve **118** is open along its right side edge. Each second sleeve **120** is comprised of a plate welded along its upper and lower side edges. Each second sleeve **120** is open on its right and left sides. In use, each locking bar **116** is secured to the frame **112** by sliding its first end through its corresponding second

sleeve 120 and continuously sliding the locking bar until its first end is received within the first sleeve 118 and its second end is received within the second sleeve 120. A hole is provided through each of the sleeves 120, and through a corresponding second end portion 117B of each locking bar 118, so that a screw or other locking means such as a pad lock can be used to lock the locking bar 116 in place. When the locking bars 116 are locked in place, the computer device 114 cannot be removed from the frame 112. In a situation where a screw is used to secure the locking bar 116 in place, the hole through the sleeves 120 are preferably countersunk so that the head screw is flush with the front or rear surface of the sleeve 120 (which makes it hard to knock the screw heads off with a chisel or other instrument), and additionally these screws preferably require a uniquely shaped screw driver bit to remove them.

Steel securing pads 122 are provided in all four corners of two sides of the frame 112 (in the illustrated embodiment, such pads are present on the right and left sides of the frame 112), and also in each corner on the bottom of the frame 112. The pads 122 each have a countersunk bore so that screws can be used to secure either a side of the frame 112 to a desk or wall, or the base of the frame 112 to a floor or other supporting surface. When the computer tower 114 is located within the frame 112, access to the inner surfaces of the pads 122 is prevented so that the frame 112 cannot be disconnected from the surface that it is secured to.

It will be appreciated that the device 110 could also be constructed with only one locking bar 116, or with more than the two locking bars 116 illustrated.

As will be apparent to those skilled in the art in the light of the foregoing disclosure, many alterations and modifications are possible in the practice of this invention without departing from the spirit or scope thereof. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is to be construed in accordance with the substance defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An anti-theft device for securing an office equipment component to a support surface, comprising:
 - a generally U-shaped base member adapted to be secured to the support surface, having an intermediate base frame for engaging a portion of the office equipment component, and first and second arms extending from said base frame;
 - a generally U-shaped clamping member having an intermediate clamp bar for engaging a further portion of the component, and first and second arms extending from said clamp bar;
 - the first and second arms of one member being telescopically engageable with the first and second arms, respectively, of the other member such that said base frame and said clamp bar are opposed; and
 - the first arm of one of said members having a plurality of adjacent teeth located along a portion thereof, and the first arm of the other of said members having a locking device located thereon having a pawl movable between a locked position in which said pawl selectively engages one of said teeth thereby preventing separation of said base member and said clamping member when said members are engaged and said locking device is locked, and an unlocked position in which said pawl is disengageable with said teeth and said base member and clamping member can be slid apart from each other when said locking device is unlocked;
- wherein the office equipment component to be secured can be located between the arms of said base member and clamped between said base frame and said clamp bar.

2. An anti-theft device according to claim 1 wherein said base frame includes a base plate for receiving and supporting the equipment component to be secured, said base plate having a plurality of securing holes formed therethrough for securing said base member to the support surface.

3. An anti-theft device according to claim 2 wherein said base plate is rectangular in shape and said securing holes are formed therethrough in locations inwardly offset from an outer edge of said base plate such that at least one of said securing holes will be concealed when the office equipment component is located on said base plate.

4. An anti-theft device according to claim 2 wherein at least one friction enhancing traction pad is located on said base plate for engaging an office equipment component received on said base plate and preventing lateral movement of the office equipment component relative to said base plate.

5. An anti-theft device according to claim 4 wherein said traction pad comprises two halves each having adhesive means on one side thereof and interconnection means on the other side thereof, wherein in use one half of said traction pad is secured by said adhesive means to said base plate, and the other half of said adhesive pad is adapted to be secured by said adhesive means to the computer equipment component, and the two halves are releasably secured to each other by said interconnection means, said interconnection means including a plurality of interengaged parts so as to prevent lateral movement of said two halves relative to each other.

6. An anti-theft device according to claim 4 wherein at least one friction enhancing traction pad is located on said clamp bar for engaging the office equipment component.

7. An anti-theft device according to claim 4 comprising a plurality of said traction pads and wherein said base plate includes a plurality of equipment support pads formed therein for supporting the equipment component received thereon, one of said traction pads being located on a corresponding one of said support pads.

8. An anti-theft device according to claim 1 wherein said parallel arms of said base and clamping members are each formed from a first material having a channel located therein and strip of a second, different, material located within said channel.

9. An anti-theft device according to claim 8 wherein said first material is extruded aluminum and said second material is hardened steel.

10. An anti-theft device according to claim 1 wherein said pawl and said teeth function as a ratchet assembly to permit said base and clamping members to be telescoped together while preventing them from being pulled apart when said locking device is locked.

11. An anti-theft device according to claim 10 wherein both the first and second arms of one of said members each have a plurality of adjacent teeth located along a portion thereof, and both the first and second arms of the other of said members each have one of said locking devices located thereon for engaging said teeth on said first and second arms of said one member, respectively.

12. An anti-theft device according to claim 1 wherein said first and second arms of said base member are pivotally mounted to opposite side edges of said base frame to facilitate shipping and storage of said anti-theft device.

13. An anti-theft device according to claim 1 wherein said pawl is concealed between said first arms when said members are telescopically engaged.

14. An anti-theft device according to claim 13 wherein the arms of said base member are telescopically received within

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the arms of said clamping member, said teeth are located on the first arm of said base member, and said locking device is located on the first arm of said clamping member.

15. An anti-theft device according to claim 1 wherein the arms of said base member each comprise a hardened steel bar, one of which has said teeth located thereon and the arms of said clamping members each comprise a hardened steel tubular sleeve to telescopically receive the parallel arms of said base member.

16. An anti-theft device according to claim 1 wherein: said clamp bar comprises two members that are slidably connected together so that the distance between the first and second arms of the clamping member can be varied; and

said base frame comprises first and second base frame sections, the first arm of the said base member being connected to said first base frame section, the second arm of said base member being connected to said second base frame section, said first and second base frame sections being movable relative to each other so that the distance between the first and second arms of said base member can be varied.

17. An anti-theft device for securing an office equipment component to a support surface, comprising:

a generally U-shaped base member having an intermediate base frame and first and second parallel arms extending from said base frame and spaced apart to receive the equipment component to be secured therebetween, said base frame including a base plate having opposite-facing surfaces for receiving the office equipment component and placement against the support surface, respectively, a plurality of securing holes for receiving securing means being provided through said base plate for securing said base member to the support surface;

a generally U-shaped clamping member having an intermediate clamp bar for engaging the office equipment component and first and second parallel arms extending from said clamp bar;

the first and second parallel arms of one member being telescopically engageable with the first and second parallel arms, respectively, of the other member such that said base plate and said clamp bar are opposed; and

locking means associated with the first parallel arms of said members and comprising a series of adjacent stop surfaces and a locking device for engaging said stop surfaces such that said clamp bar can be selectively locked into one of a number of possible positions relative to said base plate, wherein the equipment component can be secured between said base frame and said clamp bar.

18. An anti-theft device according to claim 17 wherein at least one friction enhancing traction pad is located on said base plate for engaging an office equipment component received on said base plate and preventing lateral movement of said office equipment relative to said base plate.

19. An anti-theft device according to claim 17 wherein at least one friction enhancing traction pad is located on said clamp bar.

20. An anti-theft device according to claim 18 wherein said traction pad comprises two halves each having adhesive means on one side thereof and interconnection means on the other side thereof, wherein in use one half of said traction pad is secured by said adhesive means to said base plate, and the other half of said adhesive pad is adapted to be secured by said adhesive means to the computer equipment

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component, and the two halves are releasably secured to each other by said interconnection means, said interconnection means including a plurality of interengaged parts so as to prevent lateral movement of said two halves relative to each other.

21. An anti-theft device for securing an office equipment component to a support surface, comprising:

a base member adapted to be secured to the support surface, having an intermediate base frame and first and second arms extending from opposite sides of said base frame for receiving the office equipment component therebetween, the width of said base frame being adjustable such that the distance between the first and second arms of the base member can be varied to accommodate the office equipment component;

a clamping member having an intermediate clamp bar and first and second arms extending orthogonally from opposite ends of said clamp bar, the width of said clamp bar being adjustable such that the distance between the first and second arms of the clamping member can be varied to accommodate the office equipment component;

the first and second arms of one member being telescopically mountable to the first and second arms, respectively, of the other member, such that said base frame and clamp bar are opposed; and

locking means comprising a stop member associated with one of said first arms, and a plurality of stop member engagement surfaces located along the other of said first arms such that said clamp bar can be selectively locked into one of a number of possible positions relative to said base frame, wherein the equipment component can be secured between said base frame and said clamp bar.

22. An anti-theft device according to claim 21 wherein said clamp bar includes a locking bar telescopically received within a tubular member, one of said arms of said clamping member being connected to said tubular member, the other of said arms of said clamping member being connected to said locking bar.

23. An anti-theft device according to claim 22 including further locking means associated with said tubular member and locking bar for preventing withdrawal of said locking bar from said tubular member when the first and second arms of the clamping member are located parallel to each other.

24. An anti-theft device according to claim 23 wherein said further locking means includes a lock having a spring loaded pawl mounted on said tubular member, and a row of ratchet teeth located on a surface of said locking bar for engagement by said pawl, said teeth and pawl being configured so that when said teeth are engaged by said pawl, said locking bar can be inserted further into said tubular member, but not removed therefrom.

25. An anti-theft device according to claim 24 wherein said tubular member and said locking bar each have a circular cross section and rotation of said locking bar relative to said tubular member causes said pawl to cease engaging said ratchet teeth thereby allowing withdrawal of said locking bar from said tubular member.

26. An anti-theft device according to claim 21 wherein said base frame comprises first and second base frame sections that are slidably connected together, the first and second arms of the base member being connected to the first and second base frame sections, respectively.